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THE QUESTION MARK

Volume V

1950

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Sept. 24, 1954

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume V, Number 1 January 1950

Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, M. Dorothy Brackett, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

GRATEFULLY YOURS

With this -- the eleventh issue under its editorship -- the Publications Committee writes Q.E.D. to its assignment.

From the welcome comments that have come to us, we gather that we have provoked wrath and indignation, aroused criticism, given pleasure, afforded amusement, created nostalgia, and even provided inspiration -- in varying degrees. For this we are grateful; it indicates that The Question Mark is being read and evaluated. Only by constructive criticism and deserved commendation can any Publications Committee benefit by its mistakes, keep you up-to-date on what is going on in the immediate world around you and in the larger professional field, and know that it has your cooperation.

The Committee has enjoyed its work and the Chairman has had that happy feeling that she is not Editor-in-Chief, but that The Question Mark has been issued on the fifteenth of each month by the joint effort of all Committee members, each of whom has borne equally his or her share of responsibility.

The Committee records its deep appreciation of the wholehearted cooperation it has received not only from officers and members of the Association but from all members of the Staff; without it there would have been no staff paper.

The outgoing Committee offers its best wishes and pledges its support to the incoming Committee, which will succeed it on January 20.

To the Staff of the Boston Public Library it extends sincere good wishes for the year 1950.

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MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Mid-Winter Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 1950
Copley Plaza Hotel

See program on last page!

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Mr Louis R. O'Halloran, Supply Room.

Miss Jean J. Pollard, Lower Mills Branch Library.

Re-entered Service

Mr Louis Rains, General Reference Department.

Resignations

Miss Alice M. Buckley, Allston Branch Library, to become Librarian at East Boston High School.

Miss Betty B. Buyck, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division, to accept a position with the Library of Congress.

Miss Carol A. Connor, Fine Arts Department, to be married.

Miss Margaret F. Green, Kirstein Business Branch.

Miss Mary F. Ryan, Lower Mills Branch Library, to become School Librarian at the Boston Trade High School.

Transferred

Mrs Helen M. Duston, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division, to Rare Book Department.

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Miss Naomi R. Michalak, Hyde Park Branch Library, to Jamaica Plain Branch Library.

Miss Mary L. Dennison, Jeffries Point Branch Library, to Allston Branch Library.

Engagements

Miss Claire Sanderson, Kirstein Business Branch, to Mr Donald F. Grushen, pre-medical student at Boston College.

Miss Ruth Riceman, Children's Librarian at Connolly Branch Library, to Mr Maurice Shire of New York City.

Weddings

On Saturday, January 7, 1950, Miss Carol Connor, recently of the Fine Arts Department, was married to Mr Luis Arturo Amescua R. at Saint Theresa's Church, Watertown. The reception was held at the Hampshire House, Boston. Mr and Mrs Amescua will live in Mexico City.

Mr Thomas Brendan Lavin, Fine Arts Department, and Miss Esther Julia Kennedy of Cambridge were married on Monday, December 26, 1949, at Sacred Heart Church, Watertown.

Miss Katharine Weisman, Assistant in the Children's Room at Memorial Branch Library, was married to Mr Myron I. Jaffe, on Sunday, December 18, 1949. Mr and Mrs Jaffe spent a week at the Waldorf Astoria in New York, saw "South Pacific", "Gentlemen Prefer Blonds", and attended the Opera. Mrs Jaffee returned to work after the New Year.

Births

Mr and Mrs Charles J. Gillis, Cataloging and Classification Department, Circulation Division, have announced the birth of a second son, Charles John, Jr., on January 5, 1950.

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EXHIBIT OF MR HEINTZELMAN'S WORK

Arthur W. Heintzelman, N.A., Keeper of Prints, has celebrated thirty years of print-making with an exhibition at the gallery of George Binet in New York City from December 7 - January 7.
Mr Heintzelman is the first American etcher who has been asked to exhibit in the Binet gallery. From the catalogue of the exhibition comes the following note: "An exhibition of prints and drawings by such an outstanding artist as Arthur W. Heintzelman hardly needs an introduction. The examples shown here represent the highlights of a thirty years' career leading from his native New England, through a fourteen years sojourn in Paris, to honors, prizes, and awards all over the United States, France, England, and many other countries. Now, as Keeper of Prints of the Boston Public Library, he lives among masterpieces, and as an artist, he produces them".

Also from the review of the Art Digest of December 1, 1949, comes the following: "Arthur W. Heintzelman's graphic work has received so much réclame and such discerning criticism that it would be difficult to add a further elucidating word. Yet in his later etchings and drypoints there is a definite divergence, a greater simplification of detail. The small plate of 'The Crucifix' sums up in majesty all that the earlier, more detailed designs communicated in religious fervor ... The whole exhibition is one of great distinction."

The earliest print in the exhibit, although not the first made by the artist, is dated 1919, and the latest a drypoint portrait head of Judge Harold Medina, federal judge, was done at the National Academy of Design during an exhibition of the Society of American Etchers early this year. Actually, it was done during the period when Judge Medina was presiding over the now famous trial of American communists. As the jurist sat for his portrait he was under guard by three armed men, making a situation such as Mr Heintzelman had never before encountered. This portrait is one of his finest.

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MISS FIGENBAUM TO STUDY IN FRANCE

Miss Muriel C. Figenbaum, First Assistant in the Print Department, will sail on the Ile de France on February tenth for France. She has been invited by the authorities at the Bibliothèque Nationale to study and do research at the Cabinet des Estampes, where she will have the resources of this department open to her and the aid of its experts. The collection of French prints in the Print Department of the

Boston Public Library will be greatly strengthened in the future and through the contacts offered by the Bibliothèque Nationale, Miss Figenbaum will explore the field thoroughly. The background of collections now in the Boston Public Library will be studied, and material for future publications and revisions of catalogues now incomplete on material in the Albert H. Wiggin Collection.

In writing to Mr Heintzelman of Miss Figenbaum's plans, Monsieur P. A. Lemoisne, Conservateur Honoraire du Cabinet des Estampes of the Bibliothèque Nationale mentioned that he had "been wishing for a long time to establish closer relationship between the Print Department in Boston and the one in Paris".

Miss Figenbaum expects to meet a number of the artists whose work is represented in the Collection, as well as the more modern artists working in this field. While in Europe she will also visit other major print collections in France and England. She will be on leave of absence from the Boston Public Library.

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IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD BROWN

The many friends of Mr Richard Brown, who was assistant in the Shipping Department from December 5, 1898 to May 31, 1941, will be saddened to learn of his passing away on January sixth, after a long period of indisposition.

Richard, or Dick as he was familiarly known to us, will be long remembered for his quiet, kindly manner, and for the generous spirit of helpfulness which made him at all times eager and ready to oblige.

He was on the job early and late, and his loyalty to the Library as an institution was only exceeded by his devotion to the members of the Library staff. They were his family in the largest sense of the word; and, especially since his retirement in 1941, the smallest detail affecting any one of them was news of great importance to him. Indeed, he had just two words with which to describe his Library friends -- the men were all "smart" and the women "fine".

And now as he goes faring on into the larger life, we who knew him best can be humbly grateful that he carries with him such a full measure of warmth and sincere appreciation of his Library friends.

*

EDWARD H. REDSTONE

Mr Edward H. Redstone, Supervisor in the Reference Division, who had been ill for some weeks, passed away on January tenth at the Massachusetts Osteopathic Hospital in Jamaica Plain. He had been State Librarian since 1919 before coming to the Boston Public Library in 1936 as Supervisor of Special Reference Departments.

He was a kind, friendly soul with a sympathetic ear for all. Those who worked closely with him know his love of people, his geniality, and his quiet sense of humor. No library convention will seem quite complete without his friendly smile and his warm way of greeting the hundreds of friends he has made in library circles over the years. Somehow he found the time and energy in these busy years to remain active in church circles and club work as well, and to retain active contacts with lawyers, newspaper men, business men, legislators, and others who continued to turn to him for advice and assistance long after he had served them as Librarian of the Social Law Library and of the Massachusetts State Library. He will be widely mourned by all who knew him.

Mr Redstone was a native of Newfoundland who came to Cambridge in his school days. His library career was begun at the Harvard Law School Library. He had been President of the Massachusetts Library Association, President of the National Special Libraries Association, Clerk of the Business Historical Society, and Treasurer of the New England Education Society. He had also been active in the American Library Association and the Association of State Librarians, and had held office in church and other organizations.

The staff extends heartfelt sympathy to Mr Redstone's family. Besides Mrs Redstone, he leaves two daughters, Barbara (Mrs Howard L. Smith), who is on the staff of the State Library, and Constance (Mrs Charles W. Smyth), who was formerly on the staff of the Harvard University Library.

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RECENT VISITORS

Sr. Eduardo Ordonez Bremauntz, son of the Governor of the state of San Luis Potosi, visited South End Branch Library to admire the Christmas decorations and exhibits. He was very greatly pleased to learn of the interest displayed by the children of Mexico City in their neighbor to the North, and with the reciprocal interest in Mexico on the part of the South End children.

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FORMER STAFF MEMBERS RETURN WITH HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Their friends were happy to greet former staff members who returned during the holiday season to Central Library and to Branch Libraries. Those we know about are listed with the department or branch library in which they last worked, and unless otherwise stated, they visited Central Library.

Miss Laura Gibbs, Chief of History Department, Emeritus.

Miss Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus.

Mr William C. Maiers, Chief of Book Purchasing Department, Emeritus.

Miss Clara Maxwell, Branch Librarian Emeritus, South End Branch Library, visited there.

Miss Marion A. McCarthy, Chief of Book Preparation, Emeritus.

Mr William J. Mulloney, Chief of Main Reading Room, Emeritus.

Mrs Mary McElman Corey, Book Preparation Department.

Miss Norma Dalton, Book Stack Service, on furlough from the Army.

Miss Eleanor Devlin, General Reference Department, on vacation from University of Pennsylvania Library.

Miss Jean Derby, Records, Files, and Statistics Office; now a student at Duke University.

Mrs Naomi Dick Dice, Trustees' Office. Captain and Mrs Dice are now living in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but are hoping for a transfer to foreign service soon.

Mrs Pauline Lyon Foster, Brighton Branch Library, visited Hyde Park Branch Library. The Fosters, with their two sons, are now living in Arlington, Virginia.

Mr Robert Francis, Connolly Branch Library; now a student at the Graymore Seminary in Garrison, New York, where he is preparing for the priesthood.

Mrs Gussene Guveyan Hatzik, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division.

Mrs Dorothy Galvin Roper, Business Office.

Mrs Joseph E. White, Hyde Park Branch Library, visited there. Mrs White is now living in Richland, Washington.

Mrs Sally Sensick Murray, Supervisor's Office, Reference Division.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Mr and Mrs Herbert Franklin Green of Birmingham, Michigan, have announced the birth of a third child, Carolyn Elizabeth, on September 30. Mrs Green is the former Carrie Chittenden who worked in the Office of the Supervisor of Branch Libraries and at the Jamaica Plain Branch Library while attending Boston University.

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REPORT ON CARE

The Special Committee on CARE is happy to announce that with the presentation to Mr Malcolm Leete of the CARE office by Miss Peck of a check for $100 the CARE donations have topped the $1000 mark. Publicity on the presentation is being sent to all the newspapers by the CARE organization and we hope to blossom into print any one of these days.

The members are to be congratulated on their steadfast support of this charity. According to the CARE people the Professional Staff Association has been outstanding among organizations in Greater Boston in its support of the CARE program. They are very proud of us and we have every reason to be proud of ourselves.

Let us keep up the good showing in the year to come. A happy half-century to you all.

The Special Committee on CARE
Eamon McDonough, Chairman

P.S. We're still over-stocked with pins. So, don't be bashful.

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ALA NEWS

Mr Lord has represented ALA on two recent occasions, as follows: 90th Anniversary Dinner of the Worcester, Massachusetts, Free Public Library on 1 December 1949; Luncheon and formal dedication of the Treasure Room in the Chenery Library at Boston University on 3 December 1949.

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COLLEGE AND REFERENCE LIBRARIANS TO MEET

On Wednesday evening, January 18, 1950 at 7:30 there will be a meeting of interest to college and reference librarians of Greater Boston. The meeting will be held in room 108 of the Boston University College of Liberal Arts. The subject to be discussed will be "Less known resources in the Boston Area and the conditions under which they may be used". There will be a panel made up of Mr Hugh Montgomery, Harvard University, Chairman, Mr John M. Carroll, Boston Public Library, Mr Foster Palmer, Harvard University, Mrs Doris Pickard, Emerson College, and Mr Albert Roy, Boston University School of Business Administration.

There was an informal meeting of some of the college and reference librarians at the Swampscott Regional ALA Convention, at which time formal organization and affiliation with some existing organization was discussed. It was decided at that time to proceed on an informal basis for the present. This is the first meeting since that decision was reached.

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REMEMBER "JEAN KARR"?

In Washington, D. C., on 6th Street, N.W., No. 1000, is a book shop with the name Jean Karr on the door. Many library people may be interested to know that Jean Karr used to work here in the BPL, employed for several years by the American Merchant Marine Library Association. We knew him as George Cohen, which, of course, is his real name. When he went into the book business, on a small scale at first, he took the trade-name of Jean Karr. When he called on us last Fall, he spoke of his ever-growing business and told us he had a new book on the press. This is "Zane Grey, man of the West". His other biography, published in 1948, is entitled "Grace Livingston Hill: her story and her writings".

George is now a successful business man, living in a pleasant suburban section of Washington with his wife and two children. His son attends college in Miami and is planning to study Library Science at Columbia after he graduates.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WOMEN'S HOUSE COMMITTEE

The decorations planned and put into place in the Women's Lounge and the hallway outside the Staff Library for the holiday season were indeed a credit to the Women's House Committee. They are to be congratulated!

****

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA NOW A TRADITION

The Annual Christmas Tea has become a tradition. It has withstood the very real competition of department parties and has won a definite place on the calendar of social events for December.

The tea for 1949 was held in the Lounge on Wednesday afternoon, December 21, from 3 to 5 o'clock. The Committee in charge, identifiable by Christmas bell name tags, welcomed all who came with a cordiality and warmth that exemplified the true spirit of the season. Under the capable chairmanship of Miss Helen Schubarth, Auditor, the Committee functioned efficiently and cooperatively. The results were satisfactory in every way -- the food was up to the high standard set at similar functions in the past; the decorations were unusually effective; and the spirit of friendliness and good will was contagious.

Emeritus staff members returned to renew old acquaintances -- Mrs Dietrichson, Miss Guerrier, Mrs Hartzell, Miss Jordan, Mr Mulloney, Mr Rosenberg, and Mr Taylor. New staff members were initiated into this non-business aspect of their life in the BPL. Pictures were taken by Mr Francis G. Myers. Congratulations to the Committee!

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BPLPSA THEATRE PARTY

On Friday evening, January 6, the BPLPSA sponsored a theatre party at the Colonial Theatre. The gay, whimsical "Brigadoon" was the happy choice of the Entertainment Committee.

This musical fantasy about the two Americans who find themselves in the enchanted Scottish town of Brigadoon, has enjoyed a long run and is one of the most popular shows of the last several seasons.

We feel sure that the seventy-five members who represented the Branch Libraries and the Central Library Departments would heartily endorse another venture of this type sometime in the near future.

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CHRISTMAS -- HANNUKAH PARTY AT WEST END

An invitation to join in an evening of good fellowship, in all the best traditions of the two holidays -- Christmas and Hannukah, had been extended to the more than one hundred and fifty guests who assembled at the West End Branch Library on Thursday, December 15, for what has become by now a traditional expression of hospitality and good will. The evening was informal, but yet appropriate in the paying of tribute to the two holidays of the Christian and Jewish faiths, which have become symbols of hope, freedom, and peace.

Miss Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, was both a gracious hostess and an expert mistress of ceremonies. To set the mood for the evening, the Staff, with Miss Dorothea Blue, Miss Mildred Kravitz, and Mrs Ernest Roussos as soloists, sang the traditional Christmas carols and Hannukah songs. Mr Lawrence E. Keck of the First Methodist Church delivered the Christmas message. Mr Bernard Radin ushered in the religious portion of the program by blessing the Hannukah candles and lighting the first taper. Then Rabbi Abraham J. Klausner, spiritual leader of Temple Israel, Boston, talked movingly and with deep insight into the meaning of both holidays, and ended his talk on a high note of hope.

There were many distinguished names from all walks of life among the guests that evening, but none had a more direct connection with a towering literary figure of the past than Professor Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana, who read his grandfather's poem on Christmas with great feeling. Mr Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library and President of the American Library Association, extended his greetings and best wishes for the holiday season to the company, and also said a few words about his recent trip to Palestine which was one of the stops on his round the world trip on the Town Meeting of the Air Program.

The limitations of time did not allow for each one of the guests to be called on individually. However, Mr Francis B. Masterson and Mr Frank W. Buston, of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library, extended the best wishes of the season. Dr Nathaniel W. Faxon, retired Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital also spoke briefly. After a closing song, refreshments were served and in their originality and quality both sharpened and satisfied the appetites of the guests.

No account of this delightful evening would be complete without saying a word about the beautiful picture of warmth and cheer that the Branch Library presented in its physical aspects. Everything sparkled and gleamed. Flowers in profusion decorated the desks and the beautifully appointed tables. To honor Hannukah, an electrified lighted floor Menorah was placed in the foreground of the room. In the center aisle a Christmas scene of a Madonna and angels garlanded with greens and floodlighted in blue was the center of attraction. Along the walls was an exhibition of Christmas in art, as well as posters made by members of the West End Branch Library family.

To merely say that the party was a success is to be modest. All the guests were loud and sincere in their praise. Kind fate willing, the Librarian and the Staff hope for a repeat performance in 1950.

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BOOKMOBILE

The Library's bookmobile is expected here in Boston this week and we hope to have it displayed in some prominent spot in the City. Later in the month it is to make trips to the various locations on its schedule.

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SAFE ROBBERY

For 22 part-time workers and 22 full-time workers twenty-two was an unlucky number last month. Sometime after 10 p.m. on the evening of December 22, three unidentified men gained entrance to the Central Library building, tied and blindfolded the Watchman on duty, and made off with the small safe that had been in Book Stack Service. The safe, although intended for the deposit of small sums of fine money, that evening contained the salaries of some 44 individuals whose money had been collected for them earlier in the day while they were absent on time allowed for Christmas shopping. All of this money, plus a small sum of fine money, was missing from the safe when police recovered it from the Dedham section of the Charles River a few days later. The door had been blown off to gain access to the contents of the safe. Police are still actively engaged in the work of tracing down the guilty ones.

In a notice sent out shortly after the robbery the Director offered the deep sympathy of the Library to the individuals concerned and gave assurance that every effort will be bent to make up for the loss incurred.

****

Miss Nina Eliza Browne visited the Book Selection Department on January 9 with a few items which she offered as gifts to the Library's collections. In the days when Mr Chevalier was Chief of the Catalogue Department, Miss Browne was often at work there on special assignments. Many of the pioneers in the library field were her personal friends. Her eyesight failing, she learned Braille when she was past middle age so that she is able to read with ease and enjoyment.

****

MR PARSONS GOES TO OMAHA

Mr Arthur J. Parsons, Jr., Librarian of the Brockton Public Library, was the guest of honor at a luncheon of the Greater Boston Book Review club, at The Pioneer, January 11, 1950. Following the luncheon Mr John Kelley, Librarian of the Somerville Public Library and President of the Massachusetts Library Association, made a presentation to Mr Parsons on behalf of members of the Greater Boston Book Review Club.

Mr Parsons, who has been associated with the Brockton Public Library for several years, has been an active member of the GBBRC since the days when he was Librarian at Swampscott. His association with this group, as well as his work with the MLA, has been a real contribution to library service in New England.

On January 31, 1950 he terminates his services with Brockton. He has accepted the position as City Librarian at Omaha, Nebraska. He will be greatly missed in New England library circles. Our best wishes go with Mr Parsons and his family as they take up their residence in Omaha. There is country dancing even in Omaha! So, Mr and Mrs Parsons should have no difficulties in finding kindred spirits in that far-off land.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

On January 24, 1949, when the present officers were notified of their election, January 20, 1950, the next election date seemed very far off. That was entirely an imaginary illusion. There has been practically no time at all between the two dates. So swiftly has the time gone that it seems impossible that we shall be saying farewell with this issue of The Question Mark. A review of the year's work will be given at the annual business meeting on January 20 and will be included in the February issue of The Question Mark. At this time I would like to express on behalf of the Executive Board, the officers, the chairmen of Committees and myself, our sincere thanks for the splendid cooperation given throughout the past year. Whatever has been accomplished during the year has been due entirely to the untiring efforts of individual members who have given without measure of their time and talents. Without this individual effort no organization can hope to survive. We ask, on behalf of the incoming officers, your continuing support. May next year see even bigger and better accomplishments for the Association.

*

The following letters received by the President from the Director need no amplification.

6 December 1949

Dear Miss Peck:

I wish to express on behalf of Mrs Lord and myself, and Peter, our great pleasure in the fine reception which was tendered last Friday evening by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association and friends. Such an experience is a heart-warming one, and I appreciated it deeply.

Many thanks indeed!

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD
Director

To:
Miss Edna G. Peck
President, Boston Public Library
Professional Staff Association
Boston Public Library
Boston 17, Massachusetts

27 December 1949

Dear Miss Peck:

I wish to express my appreciation of the friendly good wishes expressed to me in my new capacity as President of the American Library Association as revealed in the current December 1949 issue of The Question Mark. I am greatly pleased to have this expression of good will.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD
Director

To:
Miss Edna G. Peck
President
Boston Public Library
Professional Staff Association

*

Our congratulations to Mr Bradford Hill, Editor of the SORT bulletin, upon the first issue of the bulletin under his editorship. A very creditable job, Mr Hill.

*

As the next logical sequence in the plans for the erection of a war memorial, three representatives of the BPLPSA have accepted assignments to a joint committee. A letter has been forwarded to Miss Fanny Goldstein, President of the Benefit Association; and to Mr Leonard Macmillan, Commander of the Arnavets. A copy of the letter follows:

December 29, 1949

Miss Fanny Goldstein, President
Boston Public Library Employees'
Benefit Association.

Dear Miss Goldstein:

Three members of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association have been chosen to represent that organization on the committee to set up plans for a memorial to the Boston Public Library staff members who served in World War II. No one was asked to serve as chairman since it was thought that the chairman should be selected from the joint committee, chosen to represent the three major staff organizations, The Benefit Association, The Arnavets, and the Professional Staff Association.

The Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association representatives are: Joseph O'Neil, Periodical Department; Robert Roper, Science and Technology Department; and Louis Polishook, Patent Room. As soon as your organization has chosen its representatives, these men are ready to start work on the plans for the memorial.

Very truly yours,

(signed) EDNA G. PECK
President

A copy of the reply from the Secretary of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association, Incorporated follows:

January 11, 1950

Miss Edna G. Peck, President
Boston Public Library
Professional Staff Association

Dear Miss Peck:

At their January meeting the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association, Incorporated selected three members to serve as their part of the joint committee made up of members from the three organizations.

The Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association, Incorporated representatives are Mrs Sarah Flannery, History Department; Mr James P. Mooers, Binding Department; and Mr Martin Murphy, Buildings Department.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) MARY D. FARRELL
Secretary

Copy to: Leonard J. Macmillan

*

The annual business meeting of the Association will be held in the Lecture Hall on Friday morning, January 20, at nine o'clock. It is hoped that every member who can possibly do so will be present since there are several vital matters to come before the meeting. One such matter is the election of officers. To take care of the voting procedures an elections committee has been appointed. The committee is as follows:

Miss Mary O'G. Cahill, Miss Helen Colgan, Miss Elinor Day, Miss Mary Doyle, Miss Martha Herman, Mrs Bertha Keswick, Mrs Santa Koster, Mrs Beverly Lambert, Mr Paul Moynihan, Miss Dorothy Shaw, Chairman. This committee will prepare and distribute the ballots, "cover" the voting booth which will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and count the ballots. Provisions are made whereby every member of the Association may vote. You are urged to avail yourself of this opportunity. This is one time where every member plays a vital role. You have a job to do and no one can do it for you. For whom you vote is not nearly so important as the fact that you do vote. The first and best way is to come to the Business Meeting and cast your vote in person. If this is absolutely impossible, then plan to obtain an absentee ballot -- and use it! Despite the fact that this absentee balloting seems relatively simple many ballots had to be discarded last year because the procedure was not correctly followed. In one instance all the ballots from one branch library were invalidated because all the ballots were put into one envelope with no record of the individuals voting. The process is so simple it hardly seems necessary to review it. Remember voting is an individual not a group procedure. If <u>you</u> cannot attend the meeting on January 20 <u>you</u> send to the Recording Secretary, Miss Mary J. Brady, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division, for an absentee ballot. Armed with this ballot, an open mind, a sharp pencil or unleaking pen, and two plain envelopes, you seek a sheltered spot. Then, after due meditation, you check the candidates of your choice. Fold the ballot. Place it in one of the unwritten-upon envelopes. Seal the envelope. Place that sealed envelope in the other envelope. Now address this envelope to the Recording Secretary (address given above) and in the upper left-hand corner place your name and branch library or department. Put away your pen or pencil. Brush the doubts from your mind, -- and finally see that <u>your</u> ballot, enclosed in plain envelope which in turn is enclosed in addressed envelope reaches Miss Brady before 5 p.m. on January 19. To be sure your vote is counted, send it individually rather than as one of a group from the branch library or department. Often one error will disqualify the whole group, whereas if each ballot comes individually, and there is an error (which there won't be!) only that one ballot is invalidated. See how simple it is. I bet you a piece of seven-layer cake that everyone gets it right this year. No discards whatsoever. Your error might put into office someone whom you do not think especially qualified for the position. So you better watch out. <u>You</u> are important. <u>Your</u> vote counts.

*

Among other matters to be discussed at the meeting, there will be certain problems which have arisen concerning the concession. Mr Aaron Starr, Chairman of the Concessions Committee, will tell us how plans are progressing. He will also ask for further instructions from the Association regarding the general plan of operation. The major problem at the moment seems to be: Shall Mr Starr be instructed to negotiate for the installation of a service whereby all profits, including those from the soft drink machines, over and above the normal profits due the concessionaire, should revert to the individual users of the concession in the form of reduced prices or should the prices be on a par with those on the outside and the profits from the soft drink machines revert to the Association? There are many angles to this problem. This is but a bare statement of the two horns of the dilemma. Please come prepared to give your views potently but briefly.

*

The recent losses sustained by staff members when one of the library safes was stolen, will come up for discussion.

*

Sorry the anticipated Country Dance scheduled for Friday, January 13, had to be cancelled due to the fact that no caller was available for that evening.

*

Are you going to the MLA Midwinter Meeting?

Miss Louise B. Day, Vice President of the MLA and Program Chairman, reports that a meeting of real interest has been prepared for midwinter MLA to be held at the Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston on Thursday, February 9, 1950. This gives the BPL staff an excellent opportunity to participate in the state meeting with very little effort. The morning meetings are of sufficient variety to be of practical aid in almost every phase of library work. The afternoon meeting should interest all who are alert to modern trends in book reviewing.

Lest the mind be overstimulated and the poor body neglected, there is the excellent luncheon, with speaker, for only $2.00. Surely mere man could not ask for more. Let's show the MLA that Boston is alive, both mentally and gastronomically.

*

The BPLPSA was represented officially at the funeral of the late Mr Redstone by the President, Miss Edna G. Peck, the Vice President, Mr Frank Bruno, and two lay members, Mrs Grace B. Loughlin and Miss A. Frances Rogers.

*

As previously voted the outgoing Program and Entertainment Committees will take care of the February meeting of the Association. Heretofore, with the annual Business Meeting and election of new officers coming late in January, it has been very difficult to complete committee organization in time to adequately prepare for a February meeting. In accordance with this vote, Mrs Altman, Chairman of the present Program Committee has secured Mr Joseph Dineen, author and journalist, as a guest speaker for February 17, 1950. This meeting will be followed by a reception for the new officers. Details later.

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BPLEBA VALENTINE DANCE AND WHIST PARTY

The Benefit Association has announced a Valentine Dance and Whist Party to be held Saturday Evening, February 11, 1950, in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library. Further details will be announced later.

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BRANCH NOTES

Allston

On December 13 Miss Alice Marie Buckley left her position as Children's Librarian at Allston Branch Library, and on December 31 severed her connections with the Boston Public Library to become School Librarian at the East Boston High School. In honor of the occasion, the Staff of the Allston Branch Library gave a luncheon at the Town House and presented her with a travelling kit, since Miss Buckley plans to go to Europe this summer.

Miss Buckley will be missed by the Staff and by Library patrons, as she was popular with both children and parents.

Connolly

The Junior Book Reviewers, reading club for junior high school girls, presented a Christmas play on Thursday evening, December 22, to which their friends were invited. After the play, refreshments were served by the girls to their guests, and everyone joined in the carol singing.

The staff of Connolly Branch Library had its annual Christmas party on Friday, December 23. Miss Edna G. Peck was our guest on that occasion. Delicious food, carol singing, and a grab bag of gifts made it a very pleasant celebration.

East Boston

A particularly pleasant kind of story hour was conducted for several classes of children who visited the library the week before Christmas. Following the stories in the hall, the children were invited to spend half an hour in the Children's Room where there were many displays of new books and of Christmas books placed invitingly around the room and on the tables. A cheerful fire burning quietly in the fireplace attracted many who chose a good book, found a place in the ring of chairs that was drawn up beside the hearth, and read with absorption during the entire period. Others roamed freely about the room, exploring and selecting books to be taken home at a later date. Those who were vague about the status of their library cards had an opportunity to check at the registration desk.

There were many satisfactions involved in these story hours -- both for the children and for the library staff. It is to be hoped that they can be repeated in future years.

*

The annual Christmas story hour that has become a tradition was held the Saturday before Christmas vacation, at the end of the Children's Room around the big fireplace where a cheerful fire burned on the hearth. There were two stories told to the more than ninety assembled children -- Ruth Sawyer's merry "Schnitzle, Schnotzle und Schnootzle" and Howard Pyle's "How The Good Gifts Were Used By Two". An eighth grade girl sang the traditional "Twelve Days of Christmas". Some new Christmas books were introduced. And then came the highlight of this story hour -- the feature looked forward to each year. Pencils and paper were passed around and a few quiet moments followed as each child wrote down a Christmas wish. Then, softly singing "Silent Night", the children filed past the fireplace where the fire had burned down to bright coals. Each tossed his wish onto the coals where it glowed for a second and was gone in a puff of smoke up the chimney and out into the air.

This was a solemnly happy little ceremony, for while the wishes were all secret and some of them highly personal, we all shared for the time being a wish for "Peace on Earth Good Will to Men", and for Christmas happiness for Children everywhere.

Memorial

The Branch Staff Christmas Party was a successful and festive affair. Lobster was the main attraction on the menu; the decorations were appropriate to the occasion; and the usual exchange of Christmas gifts added its touch.

*

The Fourth Annual National Photographic Awards, a collection of photographs by high school students of the country, was on display for three weeks. This exhibit attracted the attention of young and old and proved as popular as the two previous ones which had been shown at the branch library.

Phillips Brooks

On January 9, the first anniversary of the FRIENDS OF THE PHILLIPS BROOKS BRANCH LIBRARY, a large gathering of members met to present their branch library with an Ampro moving picture projector. After acceptance by the Branch Librarian, Miss Virginia Haviland, the Secretary read communications from the Director and from the Trustees. Mrs Muriel Javelin also expressed appreciation for what the projector would mean in a wider use of films in the Library. As a surprise, a second gift -- a recordplayer, equipped with

automatic record changer and three playing speeds -- was made by the "Friends". The new film THOMAS JEFFERSON was shown at the conclusion of presentation ceremonies.

These gifts represent the cooperation and voluntary contributions of a great many "Friends" who began in the spring to build a fund for the purchase of a projector. They come from the efforts of "Young Friends," as well, and those of the Great Books Discussion Group.

The possession of the projector will make possible a broader and more easily organized film program at this library, with occasional evenings planned especially for high school groups and more frequent (and earlier) programs for young children. A February evening of films about Italy has been planned to meet the interest of a large Italian group.

The recordplayer will be used for music appreciation hours and in special ways in connection with film programs, story hours, and puppet plays, as well as for small group listening.

*

A second venture in puppetry was the production of "Hansel and Gretel" by members of the Saturday morning Great Books Club. One performance was given before Christmas and a repeat performance in vacation week for the pre-school story hour group (with their mothers) and a nearby nursery school.

South Boston

The generous additional allowance of shopping time changed the Christmas party into a gala New Year's luncheon held Friday, December 30, at high noon. Colorful hats and streamers which gave atmosphere to the party were later made use of in an exhibit called "Plan a Party". The menu -- luscious lobster newburg, fresh garden salad, and strawberry chiffon pie, though highly caloric, was greatly enjoyed by all.

South End

South End Branch has again been honored by its very good friend Mr Joseph Kharibian with a most beautiful Christmas display. Joe's (he will always be just Joe Kharibian to us) masterpiece this year is most ambitious. It is a sizable sleigh drawn by two reindeer, with Rudolph in the lead, all made of styrofoam, on a base of the same material. In the sleigh are two Christmas trees, ornament laden, of course, with our good friend Santa standing beside the sleigh. The whole piece is further decorated with long-needle pine, pointsettias, giant sequoia cones, small cones and flowers made from cones. In the front is an enormous red ribbon bow, paint dusted for shade effects. The background of the decor is of white birch, beautifully spangled.

The description is most inadequate; it requires more superlatives than have been used here. Perhaps some of the comments on it are more enlightening. "I guess this is about the best dressed library in town!" "That is a real work of art!" "Simply out of this world!" "Why don't the papers take a picture of it?"

So, to Joe Kharibian, who is thanking the library in this beautiful manner for what it meant to him in childhood, go our heartfelt thanks, with the knowledge that he is brightening the drab outlook for many South Enders.

*

We have also been given again the opportunity to borrow from the Misses Grace and Marie Turner some of their very choice collection of dolls. The exhibit this time is of dolls from far and near, of various and unusual materials; wood, straw, fiber, paper, bone, pine cones, shells, gourds, corn husks, corn stalks, yarn, and rubber. One of the most interesting is from Indonesia, a rubber boat, partly covered, with six men equipped with paddles, and facing them the Indonesian equivalent of a coxwain. Are they on the way to pick up a VIP? Or perhaps they are simply going to trade? Does the tub hold cocoanut wine, or is it simply bait for fish? Another conversation group in the collection is a Chinese wedding party, complete with musicians, lantern carriers, the bride in her red brocaded chair on the shoulders of eight bearers.

The dolls fascinate and delight old and young, and the staff as well as the public. For the pleasure you have given us and for your kindness in sharing your treasures with us, we thank you, Miss Grace and Miss Marie Turner.

*

From the Benjamin Franklin Library in Mexico City, through Miss Eva Anttonen, the Children's Room at South End received Christmas cards made by their little friends of the Sala Infantil. The cards were exhibited in the Children's Room, and were greatly admired by the young fry.

West End

Colored posters showing the great improvement in opportunities for children are on display in the Children's Room. Conditions prevalent about 1910 as portrayed by photographs taken by the late Lewis Hine, under the auspices of the Russell Sage Foundation, and present-day improvements shown in photographs by Ernst Halberstadt, the Boston artist, are the basis for comparison.

*

The West End Branch Library with its special Judaica collection in uniquely equipped to provide material for Jewish Music Month which is celebrated this year from February 5 through March 5.

Arrangements are now being made for a comprehensive exhibit of the various aspects of Jewish music. It is hoped that scores, examples of liturgical music, both ancient and modern, as well as portraits and books on Jewish music and musicians, will be on display.

*

A special program for Negro History Week highlighting the important contribution of Negroes to the American way of life will be offered, details of which will be announced later.

In the Children's Room, Negro History Week will be interpreted in a broad sense to emphasize once again the importance of the brotherhood of races. Displays will be arranged, using books and pictures to show the life of children in other lands. Various commonplace happenings in the daily life of every race and nationality will be pictured for comparison, in order to emphasize the community of experience and interest between the children of our own country and those even in "Darkest Africa". Attention will be called to this exhibit through visits to the schools and invitations to the teachers and parents of the district.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Ashton, Helen
Parson Austen's daughter
New York, Dodd, Mead, 1949

Carroll, Gladys H.
West of the hill
New York, Macmillan, 1949

Feikema, Feike
The primitive
New York, Doubleday, 1949

Fineman, Irving
Ruth
New York, Harper, 1949

Graves, Robert
The Islands of Unwisdom
New York, Doubleday, 1949

Mason, F. Van Wyck
Dardanelles derelict
New York, Doubleday, 1949

Myers, John M.
Silverlock
New York, Dutton, 1949

Nathan, Robert
The river journey
New York, Knopf, 1949

Terrot, Charles
The passionate pilgrim
New York, Harper, 1949

Thirkell, Angela
The old bank house
New York, Knopf, 1949

Non-fiction

Cooperative Committee on Library Building Plans
Planning the university library building; a summary of discussions by librarians, architects, and engineers
Princeton, Princeton Univ. Press, 1949

The best plays of 1948-1949
New York, Dodd, Mead, 1949

Costain, Thomas B.
The conquerors
New York, Doubleday, 1949

Downs, Robert B.
Resources of New York city libraries, a survey of facilities for advanced study and research
Chicago, ALA, 1942

Garceau, Oliver
The public library in the political process; a report of the Public Library Inquiry
New York, Columbia Univ. Press, 1949

Hudson, William H.
The best of W. H. Hudson
New York, Dutton, 1949
Maugham, W. Somerset
Quartet
New York, Doubleday, 1949
Maugham, W. Somerset
Writer's notebook
New York, Doubleday, 1949
Overstreet, Harry A.
The mature mind
New York, Norton, 1949
Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Library
M.I.T. library annual, 1948
Cambridge, The Institute, 1949
Wilson, Louis R.
Report of a survey of the libraries of Cornell University
Ithaca, Cornell Univ. Press, 1948

Any book or periodical in the Staff Library may be reserved by any member of the staff by notifying the Personnel Office of the book or periodical wanted. Staff members employed in a unit located outside the Central Library building are requested to use Form No. 746 on which to request that a book be reserved and to send this request directly to the Personnel Office.

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SOAP BOX

CERTIFICATION

The questions on certification which appeared in the Soap Box for December 1949 were commented upon by the Director at the Officers' Meeting held on December 15, 1949. The answers given below are based on those comments, and are provided by the two members of the Publications Committee who attended that meeting.

1. Is it advisable for Boston Public Library staff members to apply for State Certification?
   Answer: Yes.
2. Is a State Certificate of value only to those who plan to seek library employment outside of the Boston Public Library?
   Answer: Not necessarily.
3. What value does the certificate have to justify its fee?
   Answer: Its ultimate value will depend upon future legislation and developments in the profession of librarianship.
4. Will a State Certificate of Librarianship be a prerequisite in the Boston Public Library for appointment or promotion in the future?
   Answer: Not known at the present time.
5. Why is the position held on August 1948 considered the basis for application?
   Answer: August 14, 1948 is the date on which AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF LIBRARIANS became effective.
6. Why is July 1950 the deadline for applying without examination?
   Answer: August 14, 1950 is the deadline for making application for a certificate on the basis of position held on August 14, 1948, because Section 31 of the Act so states: "Any person who, upon the effective date of this act, is employed in a position defined as that of professional librarian or subprofessional librarian in section twenty-four, shall be granted a certificate as a professional or subprofessional librarian, if he makes application within two years after such effective date."

From the presentation made at the Officers' Meeting, it would seem that if a person is eligible for certification on the basis of library school graduation, it is preferable to apply on that basis rather than on the basis of position held. However, the wise thing to do is to apply now under one of the bases offered, inasmuch as developments in the library field in the future are unpredictable and it is well to "have as many eggs in one's basket" as possible. It was pointed out that when

a law provides an opportunity for "blanketing in" those already employed, it is well to take advantage of that provision.

*

Dear Soap Box Editor,

Could any arrangements be made to have the Staff Library open on Saturdays from nine to five, or for that matter, after five o'clock on week days?

There are several responsible staff members working those hours who could be entrusted with the care of locking up the Staff Library. I know of many employees who would certainly appreciate this convenience.

*

To the Soap Box:

Comment on the Lack of Lighting in the Annexes

We wander around in perpetual night
And we pray that the Lord will say:

"Let there be light!"

Miss Sheila Pierce
Book Stack Service

*

To the Soap Box:

Just wondering how many staff members made this New Year's resolution,

Resolved that I will stop "short timing" the taxpayers of the City of Boston by limiting my relief periods to 10 and 15 minutes.

JES' WONDERIN'

*

To the Soap Box:

The reassuring statement issued by the Director on the day following the safe robbery gave hope to the many employees who were so tragically affected that some means would be found to reimburse them for their losses. Time has not diminished this expectation, especially at a season of the year when such financial loss is felt most acutely, particularly by the needier members of the staff.

Although three weeks have elapsed since the incident, no further reassurance has yet been forthcoming, and rumors have been rife concerning the possibility of a library-wide collection to be taken up, in lieu of further official library action on their behalf. However generously inspired, such a suggestion must seem repugnant to many, if not all, of those who would be the objects of such well-meant charity, granted the unlikely possibility that so large a sum could thus be raised. Certainly it is inconceivable that the Library Administration would permit any such shifting of responsibility from where it rightly belongs to the shoulders of the employees.

Pay procedure as now carried out is, and has been, fraught with hazards. Although hindsight is always clearer than foresight, it is pertinent to point out that this procedure was not set up by the employees but by the Library, in lieu of paying by check or allowing individuals not on duty when the paymaster arrives to collect their pay at City Hall on library time. The practice of depositing the pay envelopes of absent employees in the Library safes was, therefore, dictated by the procedure now followed, and in retrospect it is clear that insurance covering the contents of the safes should have been carried by the Library, in view of the risks involved. Technically, when a properly authorized individual signs for and collects a fellow employee's pay, that employee is considered legally paid, whatever may intervene before he has an opportunity to actually receive it. For this reason the likelihood of reimbursement from City funds is perhaps slight.

However, in view of the extraordinary nature of this deplorable incident and its serious effect on the welfare and morale of the employees concerned, it is to be hoped that full consideration will be given to the possibility of reimbursing these individuals at the earliest opportunity from the income of the Library's own trust funds. A cursory glance at the list of these (1948 Statistical Report) reveals various designated and undesignated bequests which conceivably might be drawn upon for this purpose.

1. Alfred Hemenway Fund..... $5,000.00
2. Louis Kirstein Fund "to be used for any purpose of the Library that the Trustees see fit to put it to"..... 5,000.00
3. George W. Moore Fund "for general purposes"..... 217.00
4. Gardner O. North Fund..... 2,000.00
5. Pierce Fund..... 5,012.90
6. Sigilman Fund..... 18,788.31
7. Skinner Fund..... 51,732.14
8. Treadwell Fund "...income of which is to be expended by said Trustees in such manner as they may deem for the best interests of the Library"..... 13,987.69
9. Whitney Funds "said income to be paid to such employees of the said Library who are sick and in need of help"..... 5,000.00

*

To the Soap Box:

Is any hope of reimbursement being extended to those who lost their salaries when the safe was stolen? In the past it has been possible to pay salaries from income from trust funds. Couldn't that same practice be followed now and reimbursement made from these same funds, on the installment plan, as interest and dividends become available?

A SUGGESTION

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LATE FLASH

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Marion H. Dowling, Fine Arts Department, to Mr William A. MacWilliam of Dedham.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Massachusetts Library Association

To All Massachusetts Librarians:

The Midwinter Meeting of the Massachusetts Library Association will be held on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1950, at the Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston.

Please spread the news to all on your staff.

PROGRAM

10 - 11:30 Workshops on Library Problems and Techniques.
Please send your questions and suggestions for discussion to the leaders listed below:

1. Circulation Problems: Judith E. Stromdahl, Librarian, Weston Public Library

2. Reference Problems in College and Public Libraries:
John A. Humphry, Librarian, Springfield City Library Association
Ruth K. Porritt, Librarian, Radcliffe College

3. Music in the Public Library: Marjorie B. Holman
Music Librarian, Quincy

4. The Round Table of Children's Librarians will present a panel discussion on "Community Relations":
N. Dorothy Shumaker, Norwood; Hester Mitchell, Everett; Mrs. Joan Evans, Medford; and others.

11:30 - 12 Business Meeting

12:30 Luncheon (cost per person - $2.00)
Speaker: Dr. Joseph S. G. Bolton of Skidmore
"Literary Experiences of the Past Summer in England"

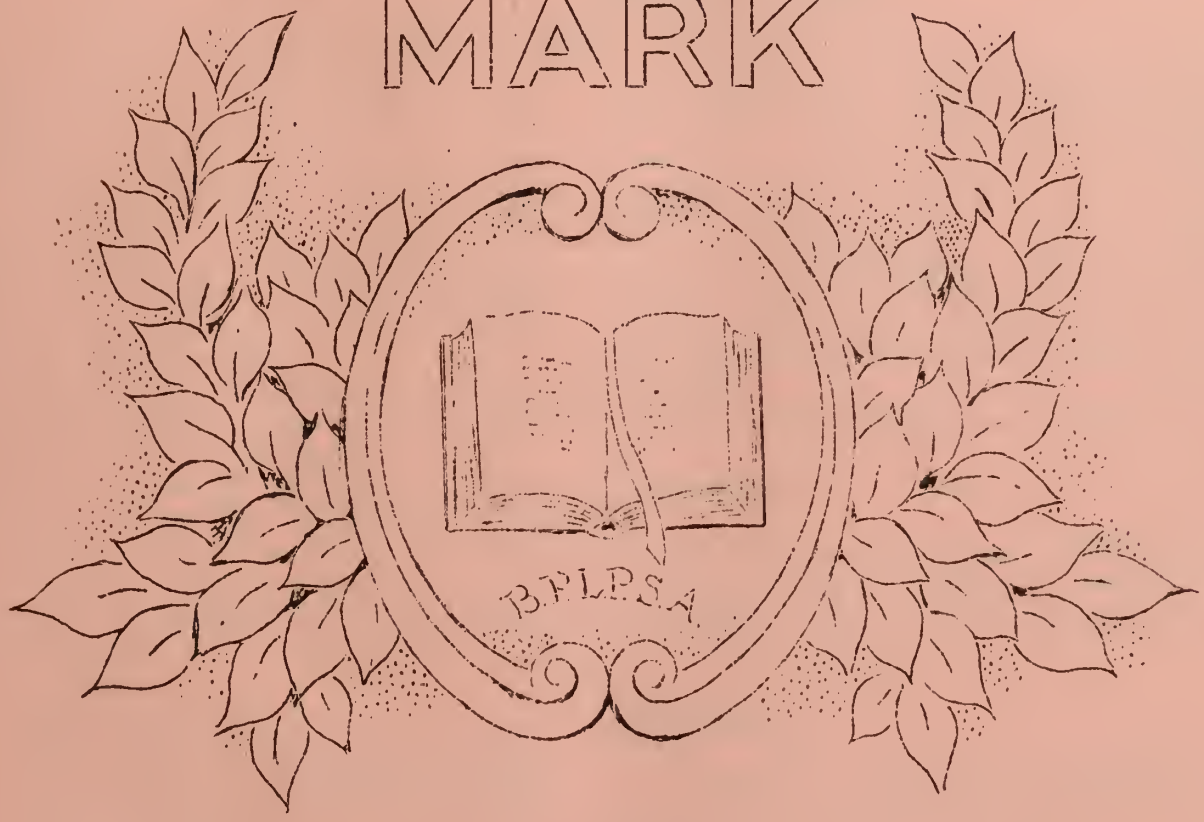
2:30 Orville Prescott, Daily Book Critic for the New York Times and Fiction Reviewer for the Yale Review:
"Fashions in Books"

Individual notices will be sent to members at a later date. It will be necessary to make luncheon reservations in advance. When the time comes, we suggest libraries plan to send in these reservations by staff groups accompanied by one check.

Your program committee has tried to plan a worth-while meeting for everyone. We hope your library staff will be well represented.

Please direct any inquiries and send all reservations to Louise B. Day, Vice-President M. L. A., Lynn Public Library, Lynn, Massachusetts.

THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume V, Number 2 February 1950

Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, M. Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

"GRATEFULLY YOURS"

Those with keen memories will recognize that this column in the last issue of The Question Mark, in which the Publications Committee made its fond farewells, was headed just as this column is - "GRATEFULLY YOURS". If you look at the mast head you will note that it is also unchanged since you will find there the names of the same individuals who were listed there before. Yes, the chairman has been reappointed; the committee has accepted a second term.

We are grateful for what has transpired and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve you all once again.

With this issue of The Question Mark, we share with you one new policy. There has always been some question about frequency of issue and an editorial policy. Beginning with the next issue we will try to live up to the following criteria of editorial policy.

1. There should be an editorial in each issue of The Question Mark.
2. The editorials should be centered around any subject of interest to the Association as a whole as expressed in Article II of the Constitution, namely, that it shall be the object of the Association
   (a) to foster professional librarianship
   (b) to further the common interests and welfare of the professional staff
   (c) to promote greater efficiency in library service.

These precepts have been formulated by the Executive Board in response to a request from the old/new Publications Committee. Other features of The Question Mark will be retained. You will find a note concerning the Soap Box in that column itself.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Mrs Hazel R. Johnston has returned to the Library as Children's Librarian at the Allston Branch Library. She was Children's Librarian at the Mt. Pleasant Branch Library at the time of her resignation in July, 1948.

Miss Ellen Richwagen, formerly employed in the field of children's work in the Young People's Room, has returned to work in the Library at the Roslindale Branch Library.

Miss Marilyn R. Bruhn, Trustees' Office.

Engagements

Miss Frances B. O'Brien, Registration Department, to Mr Willis F. Starke, of Cambridge. May 7, 1950 has been set as the wedding date.

Resignations

Mr Donald F. Ross, Cataloging and Classification Department, Circulation Division, to return to school.

Mrs Veronica Tibets, Book Stack Service, on February 3, 1950, to stay at home.

Mrs Isabelle M. Leen, Trustees' Office, on February 11, 1950, to stay at home.

Transferred

Mr Thomas J. Manning, Science and Technology Department (Patent Room) to the Director's Office on February 1, 1950. Mr Manning will handle exhibits.

Mrs Irene H. Tuttle, Branch Librarian of the South Boston Branch Library, is to serve in the same capacity on the Bookmobile, until the re-opening of the South Boston Branch Library. Other members of

the South Boston Branch Library staff have been transferred temporarily as follows:

Miss Madalene D. Holt, to West Roxbury Branch Library.

Miss Anne P. Connors, to Charlestown Branch Library.

Miss Mary L. Yanovich, to the Book Preparation Department.

Mrs Evelyn B. Marden, Children's Librarian, Charlestown Branch Library, to the Bookmobile.

Mrs Elizabeth A. Simoons, Probationary Assistant, West Roxbury Branch Library, to the Bookmobile.

Weddings

Miss M. Dorothy Brackett, City Point Branch Library, was married on Saturday afternoon, January 22, 1950, to Mr Edward L. Ekstrom, at St. Augustine's Rectory, South Boston. Mr Ekstrom, employed in Hyde Park, is attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology evenings. Mr and Mrs Ekstrom were honored at a combined reception and shower on Friday evening January 27.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Sergeant Doris A. Quigley, formerly of the Trustees' Office, was married to Sergeant Chesley Briggs Weddleton, Jr, in Washington, D. C., on February 5, 1950. Sergeant Quigley was married in the Chapel of the Naval Communications Station and was given a reception at the home of her Captain.

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PUBLICATION BY STAFF MEMBER

Mr Walter R. Curley, Science and Technology Department, translated directly from the German a summary of The Internal friction and radiation damping of violins. This translation was published in the January 1950 issue of the Journal of the Boston College Physics Society.

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WE SEND BEST WISHES FOR SPEEDY RECOVERY

to

Mrs Margaret Morrissey (Book Purchasing Department), 82 Keith Street, West Roxbury 32.

Miss Anne M. Brennan (Branch Issue Department), 93 Calumet Street, Roxbury 20.

Mr James P. J. Gannon, Binding Department.

Mr Michael Dello Russo, Binding Department.

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WE WELCOME BACK

Miss Anna Buckmann, Registration Department, after a two-months' leave of absence on account of illness.

Mr Michael Sullivan, Buildings Department, after a long absence on account of an injury to his eye. Mr Sullivan has no praise too high for the quick and efficient manner in which Mrs Wollent rendered first aid at the time of the accident, and to her he gives credit for saving the sight in that eye.

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IN MEMORIAM

BERTHA V. HARTZELL

On a late September afternoon of 1927, in what was then the Blagden Street staff lounge, a group of the Library's department heads and a few of us who were their assistants were listening to the new Supervisor of the Training Class, Mrs Bertha V. Hartzell. Smiling, slight of figure, becomingly dressed, she stood talking of the project which was to insure to the Library in the future better trained and therefore more valuable assistants. In that brief half hour, we saw many of the things that were to be marked in her in the days to come, poise, graciousness, dignity, and a certain fineness that seemed a reflection of her life before we knew her.

That life had included growing up in Newton and attending the public schools there, her A. B. degree from Radcliffe College in 1898, followed by graduate work in 1900-01, travel abroad, and a year

spent in the study of voice in Germany where she first met a very youthful student of the pianoforte, Artur Rubinstein. Later came marriage to a clergyman, the son of a bishop of the Methodist-Episcopal Church, two children, one of whom died in infancy, and widowhood. She had acquired her B. S. in library science from Simmons College in 1918, and her son had graduated from Harvard and was well on his way towards his doctor's degree before she left her work as librarian of one of the famous private schools of New England to devote herself to improving assistants in the Boston Public Library.

Devotion is not too strong a term for the way in which Mrs Hartzell applied herself to her duties here. Infinitely kind though she was, she never tolerated careless preparation. If you had been out ill and there was work to be made up, it had to be done. There could be no mistake about that. But if you must stay after hours to do it, she would stay with you, in case you needed help. The number of those who attended her Library training classes in the years up to her retirement runs into the hundreds. Yet it is not too much to say that all of those who worked under the guidance of Mrs Hartzell could never, with her in mind, give less than their best to the Library. She was of the generation that understood firmness. Her three young grandsons, she has said more than once, and with pride, knew always when she spoke that she meant what she said to them.

Along with her adherence to what she considered duty went Mrs Hartzell's very real appreciation of the good life. If it was a concert of the Celebrity Series, a Gilbert and Sullivan opera done by a visiting D'Oyly Carte Company, Maurice Evans in Hamlet, or a big-league baseball game, she would go to the limit of her oftentimes frail strength to be on hand. Of course, when Artur Rubinstein was in town it was literally true that nothing else mattered. He remembered her always with complimentary tickets to his concerts.

In her loyalty to Radcliffe College, she was steadfast. Luncheons and class reunions never lacked her support. It was characteristic of her, too, that in the group photograph at the fiftieth anniversary of her graduation, she stood, straight-shouldered and slender, in a well-cut frock, and wearing a pretty hat.

With the death of her father at the age of ninety-seven, her own retirement in 1946, and the departure of her son and his family from New England, many of the more pressing demands upon her energies lessened. She continued to live in her apartment at Newton, worked occasionally on a club paper, went regularly to see a former assistant who was invalided, and now and again found time to pay a visit to the Library in Copley Square. Her last appearance among us was in the third week of January of this year. She was stricken with cerebral hemorrhage at her home on January 31 and died on February 1, 1950, at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

C. H.

*

MARGARET HOPE REID: BRANCH LIBRARIAN

Margaret Hope Reid, who entered the Library in 1907 and who retired as Branch Librarian at the Mt. Pleasant Branch Library in January 1948, will live in the memories of her countless friends for many, many years. She will live in the annals of the Library she served so faithfully as long as paper and printer's ink shall endure.

Let me share with you one of my memories of her. On one of my first visits to the Mt. Pleasant Branch Library -- "her library" -- I opened the door upon a perfectly silent room. On one side sat the men and boys; on the other, the women and girls. They were not reading but were looking at a small and rather ill-clothed little lad who stood in front of the Librarian's desk. She smiled at him in an encouraging manner and said, "Now sing for all of us." Then, standing with legs far apart and hands stiffly held at his sides, he sang in a thin and squeaky voice, if I remember correctly, "You can't have any of my bananas when your bananas are gone." He finished the song and again there was a dead silence, until he murmured in a disappointed manner, "There ain't no applause." Said the Librarian, "Of course, we will give you applause," and the audience responded with a will. "Now", remarked the Librarian, "you've had your sing and we've all listened to you, so you can go and sit down and read." Turning to me she explained, "He kept humming and disturbing

the readers so I thought he'd better have a chance to get it out of his system."

Miss Reid had a phenomenal memory for the books her adult patrons read. She soon knew their tastes and they depended on her to choose just the books they would enjoy. If she heard that one of her readers was ill, she would send a book to the house or take it herself.

A greatly beloved and understanding person was Margaret Hope Reid, to whom might be applied the words, "A perfect hostess in the Hall of Books."

E. G.

MARGARET HOPE REID: A FRIEND

Margaret Hope Reid was always young in spirit. Possessed of a great capacity for friendship, she was unfailingly loyal to her old friends and ever happy to make new ones. She had what has been termed "an educated heart", as no special occasion in her friends' lives passed without a thoughtful greeting or timely note from her.

She loved to travel and each trip was to her a new adventure and a new thrill. Besides three trips to Europe, she travelled in Mexico, Alaska, Labrador, Bermuda, Canada, and from east to west in the United States. To hear her tell of her adventures was a pleasure. Her memory was keen and retentive so that years after a trip she could name every hamlet and town through which she had passed. On her return from one trip she was asked by a friend, "Did you see anything objectionable in the countries through which you travelled?" Her reply was characteristic of her whole approach to life, "I went to look for the beauty of the countries, and that is all I found." Yet, with all her travel, she never lost the love she had for the quiet beauty and peace of Nantucket where she spent long, happy weeks.

Margaret Hope Reid had many hobbies which added to the fullness of her living. For her amateur photography she received several awards, among them one from Eastman Kodak Company for a particularly striking picture of an iceberg off the coast of Labrador. She also collected silver, china, and bells.

In addition to membership in library organizations, she found time for active participation in the work of the Catholic Guild for the Blind, the Catholic Guild for the House of the Good Shepherd, and the Guild for Work with Foreign Missions.

To know Margaret Hope Reid as a friend was a rich experience; the memory of it will be cherished by each individual who was so privileged.

M. M. S.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Your President must have some of the characteristics of The man who came to dinner. Properly hat-ed and coat-ed she bade you a fond farewell in the January issue of The Question Mark. Now, with suitcase in hand she is back on your front doorstep all ready to stay another year.

On behalf of myself, the newly-elected officers, and the Executive Board, I would like to thank you for your support during the recent election. Those of us who were elected to represent you for the year 1950 appreciate the trust which you have placed in us and we shall endeavor to conduct the affairs of the Association in such a way that this trust will be justified. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who have so kindly consented to serve on committees (see last page for list of committees) and as staff representatives. In the final analysis it is this group of people who makes the wheels of the Association go round. The Executive Board is fully cognizant of the type of people serving in these capacities and the members of the Board are sharpening their wits in order to provide adequate ideas to keep these committees' members and staff representatives in good working trim throughout the year.

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At the first meeting of the newly-elected Executive Board held on Tuesday, January 31, 1950, several matters of vital interest were discussed. The topic of keenest interest at the moment is the possibility of legislative action to restore the pay to those members of the staff who suffered loss due to the theft in the Central Library on December 22, 1949.

After a review of the correspondence between the Director and the President of the BPLPSA, given here to refresh your memory on the several aspects of the subject, it was decided to ask Mr Lord to approach either Judge Frank Donahue or Mr Lee Friedman, Trustees, or a member of the Law Department of the City of Boston, (who would act as an individual rather than in his capacity as a member of the Law Department) concerning the possibility of drawing up the necessary papers in order to start legal proceedings. As we go to press, word has been received, verbally, from the Director that the necessary ground work has been prepared. Two staff members, Mr Louis Polishook and Mr Sidney Weinberg, both lawyers, have been invited to represent the Staff Association on this matter. They are prepared to take the necessary steps to do everything possible to help steer the petition through the legislative channels.

Dear Mrs Wright:

The Executive Board of the B.P.L.P.S.A. is interested in taking steps to be of some tangible assistance to our fellow employees who were the victims of the recent theft. However, before we make any definite plans, the Board would like to have some statement as to the efforts which the Administration has made or is making toward reimbursement. Are any plans being made to push the efforts to have the staff salaries paid by check? Is there any possibility that some insurance will be carried on the safes in the building as protection in case of similar catastrophies in the future?

The Executive Board is of the opinion that it should be armed with all the facts pertinent to the case before it goes to the staff as a whole for support of any proposed plan to aid those who suffered financial loss when the safe was robbed.

Very truly yours,

(signed) EDNA G. PECK

President, B.P.L.P.S.A.

December 29, 1949

4 January 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

Steps were taken immediately (even outside of regular working hours over the Christmas weekend itself) to ascertain what might be done by way of reimbursement to those members of the library staff who had suffered personal loss through the safe robbery here in the Central Library Building on Thursday night, December 22. A conference was thereafter held promptly on Tuesday morning, December 27, with the highest-ranking officers of the city administration with a view to initiating steps to be of aid to those who had suffered loss. This conference brought out that, since the City of Boston had made payment of the amounts properly due to each individual, either to the individual himself or to an agent, it would not be legally possible to make a second payment. Legal inquiry indicated that perhaps the only avenue of redress would be through authorization from the Legislature itself for this purpose. Just what can be accomplished in this manner is at present unknown.

The Library has had robbery insurance for some time. This insurance has, however, been intended to cover the transmittal of moneys between the Library and outside depositories, and had not provided coverage for what had been believed to be secure places such as safes, which are normally self-protecting by virtue of their own nature and construction. In the light of the recent incident the Library took action immediately to extend its robbery insurance to cover the Library's safes as well.

Out of the experience as gained from the recent incident I am planning to present to the Trustees of the Library a renewal of an earlier recommendation that salary payments in the Library be made by check rather than in cash. The Trustees were agreeable to the earlier recommendation, but the city authorities outside of the Library did not find themselves in a position to accede to it when the recommendation was originally made approximately two years ago. It is my personal belief that action should be pressed at the present time to accomplish a change-over to payment by check. It is hoped that this time there may be a successful outcome of our efforts.

If there is any further information which I can give which will be useful to you and your associates, I shall be glad to have you let me know.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD

Director

19 January 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

On January 4th, in reply to an inquiry from you under date of December 29th, I wrote to say that steps had been taken immediately to ascertain what might be done by way of reimbursement to those members of the library staff who had suffered personal loss through the safe robbery here in the Library on Thursday evening, December 22nd. I indicated that a conference had been held promptly on Tuesday morning, December 27th with the highest ranking officers of the city administration with a view to initiating steps to be of aid to those who had suffered loss. This conference had brought out that since the City of Boston had made payment of the amounts properly due to each individual, either to the individual himself or to an agent, it would not be legally possible to make a second payment. Legal inquiry had indicated that perhaps the only avenue of redress would be through authorization from the Legislature itself for this purpose. I indicated that just what could be accomplished in this respect had been unknown.

I wish to report now that the Law Department of the City of Boston has indicated that the preferable approach in the matter would be to have a special act of the Legislature enacted to authorize the payment of the amounts due to the several individuals concerned by way of restitution for their losses. The Law Department has indicated that an appropriate bill for the purpose could be drafted by it through its legislative representative. As to the manner of filing such a bill, there appear to be the following alternatives: (1) either the individual who suffered the largest amount of loss could have the bill drafted and presented in his name in representation of himself and his fellow workers through an individual member of the Legislature of his own choosing, or (2) the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association as a representative body of the employees suffering loss could have the petition drafted in its name and then filed by it through a representative of its selection. In any case the Law Department of the City of Boston would be willing to cooperate in every respect in obtaining an affirmative action from the Legislature. And the administrative officers of the Library would in their turn aid in every respect in enlisting the aid of the Law Department.

One other possibility of action was explored that had to do with the possibility of having restitution of losses made from the income of such of the Library's trust funds as might be available through there being no restrictions upon their use. I wish to report that the Law Department of the City of Boston has examined this possibility and has indicated that action in this direction may not be taken.

I bring this information to your attention with the request that it be brought widely to the attention of the membership of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association through publication in The Question Mark and also through public presentation to the members of the Association to be held on Friday, January 20, 1950.

The officers of the Library stand ready to help in every way that they can.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD

Director

19 January 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

I am deeply disturbed that the January 1950 issue of The Question Mark should have been allowed to carry an anonymous letter on pages 15 - 16 concerning the loss incurred in the recent robbery in the Central Library building without there having been simultaneously published my letter to you under date of January 4, 1950.

The anonymous letter which was published in The Question Mark indicates that nothing further has been done in the matter by the responsible officers of the

Library and at the same time carries the implication that these officers might be attempting a "shifting of responsibility from where it really belongs to the shoulders of the employees." To have allowed such a letter to have been published anonymously without accompanying it by my own signed letter under date of January 4, 1950 recounting the action which had been taken to date is hardly fair to the Trustees or to the administrative officers of the Library.

I therefore respectfully request that the Association take adequate steps to redress this omission both by publication and by presentation of the matter publicly to the members of the Association at their meeting which is scheduled for January 20, 1950.

I am not attempting here to take up any of the points mentioned in the anonymous letter as published in The Question Mark, except to state that the matter of the method of payment of salaries in the Library has not been determined by the Library itself but by the city authorities outside of the Library, and also that the question of insuring the contents of safes is not necessarily the solution, in accordance with the statement made concerning that point in the anonymous letter. As to the question of the possibility of reimbursement from the income of the Library's trust funds, that has been treated in my other letter to you under today's date.

I respectfully suggest that either this letter or its contents be brought to the attention of the members of the Association through The Question Mark and through presentation in public meeting of the members of the Association.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD

Director

31 January 1950

Dear Mr Lord:

Thank you for your three letters, one under the date of January 4, 1950, and two dated January 19, 1950, with reference to steps being taken to reimburse those who suffered financial loss due to the robbery in the Central Library Building on Thursday night, December 22, 1949.

At the Executive Board meeting on January 12, 1950, it was decided to use your letter of January 4th as a basis for discussion at the forthcoming business meeting on January 20, 1950 when there would be a consideration of possible means whereby the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association could be of service to its fellow workers who had suffered financial loss. Since the Association membership was not cognizant of the fact that the Executive Board was in communication with the Director on the matter, it was decided by the Executive Board to hold your letter for the business meeting when both my letter and your reply would be presented, rather than to publish your reply in the January 1950 issue of The Question Mark.

As a result of a very exhaustive discussion of the problem on January 20th, based on your letter of January 4th and on one letter of January 19th, it was voted "that the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association, in cooperation with the Boston Public Library Employees Benefit Association, Inc., provided the latter organization were willing to assume this responsibility, be authorized to draw up a petition to the Legislature requesting that the employees affected by the robbery be reimbursed for their loss."

The suggestion was made that the newly-elected Executive Board should survey the factors involved in the Association lending money from its treasury to those who might be in need of immediate financial assistance.

In reply to the queries raised in your second letter of January 19th, 1950, I should like to clarify the matter of the Soap Box policy. According to Webster's definition of anonymous -- "of unknown or unavowed authorship or donorship" -- no letter is accepted for publication in The Question Mark, anonymously. All such communications must be signed by the person who writes them when they are submitted to the editor for possible inclusion in the Soap Box section. If the writer so requests the signature is not published. It is the opinion of the Executive Board that this is one place where the individual staff members have the opportunity to bring to the attention of their fellow employees any matter which may be of

mutual interest without drawing unto himself or herself, as the case may be, undue criticism or laudatory comment. For this reason it has been deemed wise to keep this column free from censorship and to allow the editor of The Question Mark, in conjunction with the Publications Committee, to publish all such material as they deem it wise.

In the case of the two letters in the January, 1950 issue of The Question Mark, to which your letter referred, the Editor assures me that the opinions and comments in both letters were those of mature, professional staff members who had not lost money in the recent robbery. The funds cited in one letter were from the published Statistical Report of 1948 and thus are available to anyone who might be interested. These letters were as a partial answer to an undercurrent of queries as to what might be legally possible from funds. If your letter of January 4th had been published along with these Soap Box letters, as suggested by you in one of your letters of the 19th, it would have shed no light on the query since no mention was made of funds in that letter. Your other letter of the 19th, now incorporated in the minutes of the annual business meeting, has provided the answer with finality, in the third paragraph. As to the letter in The Question Mark which referred to salaries having been paid from funds, it contained no information that is not generally taken for granted. There is a general impression which may be erroneous, and if so you might like to use the columns of The Question Mark to clarify the facts, that in several instances salaries have been paid from funds. The letter was not intended as a criticism of library policy. It was simply a reminder of an accepted fact, or what the staff assumes to be an accepted fact.

I am confident that the writers of these letters had no malicious intent. They were written solely for the purpose of reminding the staff of certain factors pertinent to the case.

The entire correspondence, and anything else you may wish to add before February 10th, will be published in the February, 1950, issue of The Question Mark.

I am confident that it is your sole desire, as it is the desire of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association, to be of tangible assistance to those members of the staff who suffered financial loss through no fault of their own.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) EDNA G. PECK

President, B.P.L.P.S.A

9 February 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

In your letter of January 31, 1950 you make mention that "in several instances salaries have been paid from funds".

I know of only one instance in which a payment for personal service has been made from the income of general trust funds. In all other instances of payments for personal service, such payment has been made from the income of a fund specifically designated for such use, such as the Whitney Bibliographic Fund or the Alice Lincoln Whitney Fund, or in terms of the expressed wish of the donor from a fund such as the Kirstein Fund.

I send this word on to you for the purpose of clarification, since it has been stated that "in several instances salaries have been paid from funds".

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD

Director

9 February 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

I have read with interest your letter of January 31, 1950. Despite your presentation I am still disturbed as I was when I wrote my letter of January 19, 1950 to you.

I still stand upon the first three paragraphs of my letter of January 19. If the Association elected to publish an anonymous letter in the January 1950 issue of The Question Mark concerning the loss incurred by members of the staff in the recent robbery in the Central Library building, and carrying the implication that the responsible officers of the Library had not been undertaking all that might properly be done to meet the situation and might be attempting a "shifting of responsibility from where it really belongs to

the shoulders of the employees", it would seem to be entirely reasonable to expect that it would elect to publish also my letter to you under date of January 4, 1950 in which a full report was made upon what had been done in the situation up to that time. In my opinion to have published one of these letters without publishing the other was hardly fair to the Trustees or to the administrative officers of the Library.

Inasmuch as there has been raised in your letter of January 31 the question of "censorship" of communications to the "Soap Box", I wish to state clearly that such question of "censorship" was not raised by me. I have no objection whatever to the publication of the two letters which appeared in the "Soap Box" of the January 1950 issue of The Question Mark. My objection has been solely to the fact that in publishing these two letters there was not published also at the same time my letter of January 4. Actually I believe that the institution of the "Soap Box" serves a very useful purpose in making it possible for matters to be brought out into the open which otherwise might not easily have open presentation. As the chief administrative officer of the Library I welcome the use of the "Soap Box" in The Question Mark because of the great value which it has for those of us who are charged with the responsibilities of administration.

I hope that you will find it possible to have this present letter joined with the rest of the correspondence for publication in the February 1950 issue of The Question Mark.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD

Director

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The Executive Board at this first session also reviewed the report of the In-Service Training Committee for the year 1949. One feature of this report was the recommendation that a special committee be appointed to study the overall picture of Association participation in in-service training. This committee has been appointed.

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The Executive Board voted to continue CARE activities until July 1, 1950, further participation to depend on staff response during the next five months. Miss Helen Lambert, Uphams Corner Branch Library has accepted the chairmanship of the committee to succeed Mr Eamon E. McDonough, who did such an outstanding piece of work during the past two years.

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A meeting of the War Memorial Committee was held on Tuesday afternoon, February 14, in the Staff Library. From the nine members chosento represent the three staff organizations, a working committee was set up. A complete report of this meeting will be given in the March issue of The Question Mark.

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In compliance with the following letter from the Director, a special committee on Personnel Service Ratings has been appointed to survey this problem and report back to the Executive Board at the earliest possible moment.

11 January 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

It would be greatly appreciated to have the comments and opinion of you and your colleagues in the Professional Staff Association concerning the matter set forth in the following paragraph.

In connection with the administration of the Personnel Service Ratings of the Library it has been suggested that it might be desirable to have (1) a committee of review of (2) a board of appeal or (3) both to which an individual might present questions concerning the fairness of the rating accorded to him by way of appeal from the rating officer's handling of his individual case. Such committees would have the advantage of acting on a library-wide basis and would assure coordinated action in the handling of individual cases. They might have also the advantage of making the procedure of appeal a more impersonal one than if the appeal is made simply to one's administrative superiors.

If such committees were to be set up, it would be important to have them

constituted in such manner that they would be acceptable to and adequately representative of both the library staff at large on the one hand and the library administration as such on the other hand. Suggestions would therefore be welcomed as to the basis upon which such committees of appeal or review might be constituted, as well as suggestions as to their powers and duties.

This inquiry on my part is intended to be suggestive only, and is made simply by way of exploration of the situation. I recall that the Professional Staff Association has had a Committee on Personnel Ratings. Would this be a matter upon which that committee might wish to express an opinion, and also the Executive Board?

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD

Director

January 12, 1950

Dear Mr Lord:

Your letter of January 11, 1950 regarding certain aspects of the Personnel Service Ratings of the Library was discussed at the Executive Board of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association. The members were very much interested in the ideas presented. They were of the opinion that it was a matter which needed attention. However, since this was the last executive meeting of this board, with a very full slate of matters to be cleared up, it was decided to lay this matter on the table for the new executive board, with the recommendation that it should receive immediate attention after their organization is completed.

Thank you for bringing the matter to our attention. As soon as some decision has been reached, I shall communicate with you.

Very truly yours,

(signed) EDNA G. PECK
President
Boston Public Library
Professional Staff Association

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The Executive Board voted to have an auditing committee for the current year. It shall be the duties of this committee to audit the financial accounts of the Association annually, just prior to the annual meeting, and to submit such audit to the Executive Board.

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DUES ARE DUE. If March is good enough for the United States Government and for the Government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, it is good enough for the B.P.L.P.S.A. All we ask is your last quarter, your all and only, once your government taxes are paid. You may even have until March 31, 1950 to square your yearly account, all twenty-five cents of it, with the Association. Just in case you are wondering what is happening to this staggering sum which is paid annually, I might just note in passing that the Association has just paid out approximately one hundred and fifty dollars ($150.00) for supplies, mimeograph paper, stationery, envelopes, etc.. As you may judge, The Question Mark alone consumes a rather large amount of mimeograph paper. One hundred and fifty copies are issued monthly, or about two thousand copies per year. In its present flourishing condition this represents quite a few sheets of mimeograph paper and while mimeograph paper may come from trees, it doesn't grow on trees, at least not in Copley Square. It comes only in return for cold hard cash. You see we really do need that twenty-five cents. The Treasurer, Mr Charles J. Gillis, Cataloging and Classification Department, Circulation Division, awaits your contribution with anticipation.

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The following are copies of letters which were received from Mrs Redstone and Professor Hartzell in thanks for the flowers sent by the Association to the services for Mr Redstone and Mrs Hartzell.

Professional Staff Association:-
Dear Friends:-

Our most sincere thanks to you for the flowers sent to us for Mr Redstone's funeral. It was most thoughtful of you, and we do appreciate the pleasant

relationship they expressed to us.

His library life, in all its phases, was very dear to him, and we feel that he was most fortunate to have had the years he did have in the field he so enjoyed.

His associates were so kind to him and he responded as best he could. That is all a pleasure to us right now.

My two daughters join me in saying "Thank You" -

Sincerely,

(signed) Alice H. Redstone
January 20, 1950

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Your kind expression of sympathy
is gratefully acknowledged
and deeply appreciated

The spray of red and yellow tulips and snap dragons was lovely. Thank you for remembering mother.

(signed) Karl Hartzell

*

Plans are completed for the open meeting of the Association to be held on Friday, February 17th. This meeting is under the guidance of the 1949 Program and Entertainment Committees. This will be their swan song. Let us all show that we appreciate the fine work of these committees by supporting this meeting. All B.P.L. staff members and their friends are invited. Mr Joseph Dineen of The Boston Globe will speak on News and newspapers in the B.P.L. Lecture Hall at 8:30 p.m. Following Mr Dineen's talk there will be an informal reception for the newly elected officers of the Association in the Abbey Room. This will give everybody an opportunity to meet their new officers, tell them what they expect of them for the coming year and at the same time enjoy the refreshments provided by the Entertainment Committee. Judging by the past results of this committee under Miss Calnan's capable guidance, the latter will be no great effort on the part of anyone. No charge. Everyone welcome.

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The following letter of appreciation from the Director speaks for itself. I am sure that this volume has increased in value for Mr Lord since this letter was written for, if I remember correctly, the first individual greeting in the book was written by the late Mrs Bertha V. Hartzell.

3 February 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

I am sorry that I have not had an opportunity before this to write in expression of appreciation of the very fine volume bearing good wishes and greetings on the part of those who were in attendance at the reception which the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association arranged for me on December 2 in connection with my becoming President of the American Library Association.

The volume will be greatly treasured by me. It means a great deal in every way.

To you and your associates I extend my grateful thanks.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD
Director

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OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

Organization, administration, and management of the Los Angeles Public Library.
Vol. I General Service Factors
Vol. II Objectives of the Library, appraisal of the book collections.
Bureau of Budget and Efficiency, in consultation with Lowell Martin and Leon Carnovsky. 1949.

Among the rapidly multiplying library surveys (including Boston's Finance Commission Report) this is significant for being the first in which the combined professional services of administrative analysts and librarians have been utilized. The survey was treated as an opportunity for an intensification of the planning process within the library and not merely as an independent investigation by

outsiders. The report is of further interest for the picture it presents of a great metropolitan library which over extended itself during a period of prosperity and growth, with the result that when lean days of shrinking financial support followed, a general disruption of the organizational structure took place. The recommendations contained in vol. 2, under the headings, objectives and book collections, are extremely challenging and many are pertinent not only to the specific situation but to any library of similar size and character.

Government publications for the citizen. A report of the Public Library Inquiry. James J. McCamy. 1949

In this survey of the present cumbrous machinery for the publication and distribution of government information to the general reader the author recommends that the library assume an active role as a distributing agency, and makes specific proposals for a library-government distributing system.

The information film. A report of the Public Library Inquiry sponsored jointly by the Twentieth Century Fund. Gloria Waldron assisted by Cecile Starr. 1949.

Discusses the 16 mm film as an educational tool together with problems of production, distribution and use. The concluding chapters are concerned with the role of the public library as a film distributor and user.

PERIODICALS

People listen to "Skip Graham". Josephine R. Johnson. Library Journal, Oct. 1, 1949. p. 1405.

A profile of A.L.A.'s dynamic young president-elect showing how he has made the Louisville Public Library a strongly felt force in the community.

Just how right is Mr Munn. John R. Bannister. Library Journal, Feb. 1, 1950. p. 4-5.

Offers a vigorous rebuttal to Ralph Munn's pessimistic comments on recruiting more men for the profession which appeared in the Nov. 1 Lj. (It was Mr Munn's contention that in order to recruit men the profession must accept more mediocre men who will eventually capture the top library posts, since most library boards prefer men as administrators, and drive the superior women who deserve these posts out of the profession).

The need for library leadership. John C. Duff. Wilson Bulletin, Feb. 1950, p. 426-427.

Discusses the growing recognition on the part of library administrators of the need for a critical examination of training practice if the library is to function fully as a social agency. Sees the need for increasing emphasis in professional education on "human relations, social dynamics, and the principles of adult education".

Enoch Pratt reorganized. Amy Winslow. Library Journal, Jan. 1, 1950, p. 13-15.

An interesting summary of Enoch Pratt's reorganization of its central and branch library system to meet the needs of its public. The significant aspect of the reorganization is that it has been done at little additional operating cost largely through re-allocation of duties.

The obligations and responsibilities of the librarian concerning censorship. Leon Carnovsky. Library Quarterly, Jan., 1950. p. 21-32.

A provocative discussion of the background and present realities of an ever recurring library problem.

L. S. M.

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NOTABLE BOOKS COMMITTEE

1949

Once again, as in previous years, the Boston Public Library was invited to participate in the selection of the American Library Association list of Notable Books. The national committee for the year 1949 was under the chairmanship of Mr John S. Richards, Librarian, Seattle Public Library, and Vice President of the Public Libraries Division of the American Library Association. This committee was composed of representatives from forty-two libraries, The R. R. Bowker Company, The H. W. Wilson Company, Miss Helen Haines, and Miss Virginia Kirkus. Each group or individual was requested to submit a list of fifty titles considered to be outstanding among the 1949 American adult publications. The basis for selection was "outstanding

usefulness, timeliness, or contribution to permanent literature."

From the lists submitted a proposed list of fifty titles was issued to committee members. Of these fifty titles the Boston Committee had submitted thirty-four titles. Each committee was requested to state which titles they wished retained, which dropped from this tentative list. The Boston Committee recommended ten retentions and seven eliminations. Of these ten suggestions for retention, eight appeared on the final list. Of the seven titles which the Boston Committee recommended be dropped, only two failed to reach the final list.

The net result was that of the fifty titles appearing on the final list, the Boston Committee was in accord with thirty-six titles. We questioned the inclusion of two titles by one author, John Gunther. Our choice for Mr Gunther was Death be not proud, since Behind the curtain followed more or less the pattern of Mr Gunther's earlier books. Since Mr Richards, the chairman, had stated that "the list is to include only books considered genuinely meritorious... outstanding usefulness, timeliness or contribution to permanent literature are criteria," the Boston Committee questioned the inclusion of the following titles: Mary by Sholem Asch; High jungle by William Beebe; American freedom and Catholic power by Paul Blanchard; Male and female by Margaret Mead, and Thread that runs so true by Jesse Stuart.

The Boston Committee numbered fourteen members. If the other forty-two libraries had approximately the same number of committee members, the resulting figure would be approximately 588 librarians, not to mention representatives from the publishers, Miss Haines and Miss Kirkus. The time has not yet arrived when 588 librarians can be unanimous about anything, especially books. For Boston to agree to thirty-six out of fifty titles, with protest registered on only five titles, seems most unusual.

The Boston Committee was as follows:

Mr Harry Andrews, Branch Issue Department

Mr John M. Carroll, General Reference Department

Miss G. Florence Connolly, Fine Arts Department

Miss Mary F. Daly, Statistical Department

Miss Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division

Miss Christine Hayes, Book Selection Department, Reference Division

Mrs Geraldine Herrick, North End Branch Library

Miss Frances C. Lepie, Mt. Bowdoin Branch Library

Mr Leonard Macmillan, Book Purchasing Department

Miss Louisa S. Metcalf, Open Shelf Department

Mr Robert Roper, Science and Technology Department

Miss Pauline Walker, West Roxbury Branch Library

Miss Gladys White, Mt. Pleasant Branch Library

Miss Edna G. Peck, Book Selection Department, Circulation Division

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COLLEGE AND REFERENCE LIBRARIANS MEET

A meeting of college and reference librarians in the Boston Postal District was held at Boston University on January 18, 1950. A large group attended, and voted to continue to meet informally about four times a year, without, at present, affiliating with any library association.

Resources of the Boston area, and especially some lesser-known collections, were described by a panel of speakers under the chairmanship of Mr Hugh Montgomery of Harvard University.

Miss Hannah French discussed nine Wellesley Collections: The Founders Library, a personal collection on history; an English and American poetry collection of sixty-five hundred volumes, from Chaucer to the present; Italian literature of the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries; a Ruskin collection of books, drawings, and letters; a collection of seventeenth century cook-books; one on Negro slavery; and an outstanding Book Arts library, the largest in the East, emphasizing the works of the Grabhorn Press.

Mrs Doris Pickard of Emerson College read notes on the League of Nations material in the Fletcher School of Diplomacy, which also has an international-relations library, and a deposit collection of UN

and UNESCO documents. Mention was also made of the Radcliffe College material on contributions of women, and on Women's Rights, and the Babson Institute collection on Isaac Newton.

Miss Margaret Hazen analyzed some of the many collections at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: the Baldwin Engineering collection; the Eastman libraries of chemistry and microscopy; Dard Hunter Museum and library on paper-making; the famous Vail electrical library; Rotch School of Architecture library; and the Naval History collection. Less known are the war and post-war documents, comprising thousands of declassified government documents; a new translation series; a collection of Massachusetts Institute of Technology theses and a Center of Scientific Aids to Learning: microfilm, wire recording, etc. A quarterly - "American Documentation" - has just been started.

Mr Foster Palmer of Harvard University analyzed the fabulous wealth in the University's great collections in the Widener Library; the Rare Books library in the Houghton building, in the Lamont Library, and in the ninety departmental libraries. Vast resources in the literature, languages, history, and sociology of all nations in publications of learned societies are but part of its treasures. There are the Chinese-Japanese Library, a world famous Theater and Drama collection, and a huge amount of early American sheet music. Science is represented at Arnold Arboretum, the Gray Herbarium, the Library of Economic Botany, the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and the School of Engineering. Outstanding in their several fields are the law collections, the medical library and the business and economic collections.

Mr John M. Carroll told of four less-known special collections in the Rare Book Department of the Boston Public Library: the Trent collection on Defoe, larger than that in the British Museum; the Lewisson collection on George Washington; the Sears Freiligarth collection of nineteenth century romantic literature; and the Sabatier library on the life of St. Francis, and the Franciscans.

Some of Boston University's fourteen libraries were described by Mr Albert Roy. Recently a Rare Books room was established to house the Chenery library of Americana, comprising early Massachusetts imprints, Colonial history and manuscripts. A Theological Library now being reorganized, covers material on India, New England Methodism, and the Kimball Bibles. The School of Business Administration library is strong in psychology, human relations, and biography, with extensive pamphlet and clipping files, and New England community data. In the School of Education is the Visual Aids library: extensive catalogs of films, records and slides, and a most unusual collection of educational tests and measurements. The College of Music is rich in Renaissance music, as well as eighteenth and nineteenth century scores. The School of Law library has New Hampshire statutes complete from 1719 to date.

The next meeting of the group will be held at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, date to be announced. Its subject will be Orientation programs now being used in local institutions for all classes of students.

L. A. S.

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A.L.A. MIDWINTER MEETING

The A.L.A. Midwinter Meeting was held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago from January 26-29, 1950 and was attended by some 1600 members of the Association. Due to other assignments, it was possible to attend only certain of the meetings scheduled, a report of which follows:

Council Meetings

The first Council Meeting was held on Thursday, January 26 at 2:30 p.m. The report of the Nominating Committee was made by Miss Marian McFadden, Chairman. Since the slate was published in the ALA Bulletin, December, 1949, page 365, it will not be reported here.

Two library associations, namely, The American Theological Library Association and the Cuban Association of Librarians, filed application to become affiliates of the A.L.A. and the Council voted to grant their applications.

Mr Raymond C. Lindquist, Chairman of the Federal Relations Committee, reported on the campaign for funds for the Washington Office. The minimum budget for this Office has been estimated at $15,500. a year. The A.L.A. has set aside in 1949-50 $5,000.

and will grant in addition from the A.L.A. Endowment Fund in 1949-50 and again in 1950-51 the amount of $5,000., if the Federal Relations Committee can raise $5,500. a year in this two-year period. It is hoped to raise this money as follows:

$5,000. from State Associations
4,000. from A.L.A. Divisions
1,000. from publishers
1,000. from donations from individuals

Mr Lindquist reported that contributions received to date were as follows:

$3,685. from State Associations
2,500. from A.L.A. Divisions
1,060. from publishers
230. from individuals

There has thus been raised a total of $7,475. of the $11,000. needed. Following Mr Lindquist's report authorized representatives of some seven State Associations announced actual contributions voted or action being taken by their associations. Individuals who wish to make a contribution to this fund may send such to Mr Raymond C. Lindquist, Cuyahoga County Library, Cleveland, Ohio.

It was announced that Mrs Margie S. Malmberg is the new head of the Washington Office now located in the Hotel Congressional. The principal work of the Office today will be to bring about the passage of the Library Demonstration Bill.

President Lord, the Chairman of the American Committee on Arrangements, made a report concerning the International Library Congress. The Congress ordinarily convenes every five years under the auspices of the International Federation of Library Associations. The last meeting was held in Spain in 1935. Since 1940 and 1945, natural meeting years, were war years no meetings were held.

The Congress will convene for ten days from October 7-16, 1950. It will be located in the New York area for six days for a working program tied in with UNESCO. It will be concerned with three projects as follows: (1) education for librarianship; (2) the UNESCO-Library of Congress Bibliographical Report; and (3) the role of librarians, with emphasis on the public librarians, in the future. The Congress then moves to Washington where the plenary sessions will take place and will be tied up with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Library of Congress.

The second Council Meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, January 28. Of particular interest was the discussion of the controversial Loyalty Resolution (ALA Bulletin, January, 1950, page 17) which centered around the word use in the Resolution as adopted by the ALA Council at Atlantic City on June 18, 1948 and changed to abuse by Council action on January 22, 1949. The Council voted to refer the Resolution back to the Committee on Intellectual Freedom and the Board on Personnel Administration, the two committees responsible for the original Resolution, to write a new draft to be presented to the Council in July, 1950.

Of interest to the staff will be the presentation of Hospital Library Standards by Mr Henry J. Gartland, President, Division of Hospital Libraries, to the Council for its consideration. The standards as presented were approved. Mr Gartland was formerly a member of the staff of the Boston Public Library, Periodical and Newspaper Department.

The third Council Meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, January 29, was devoted to consideration of the Report of the Ex-Officio Committee on A.L.A. Reorganization which had been appointed to take under consideration Part II of the Report of the Fourth Activities Committee (ALA Bulletin, January, 1949, pages 28-43). Action taken by the Council on the Report may be summarized as follows:

(1) Adopted: Recommendations 53, 55, 59, 62-63, 64 (amended), 76, 79
(2) Referred to Special Committees: Recommendations 18-31, 50, 77
(3) Referred to Executive Board for study and report to the Council in July, 1950: Recommendations 65-69, 78
(4) Tabled or filed without action for or against by the Council: Recommendations 32-45, 46, 47-49, 57, 58, 60, 61, 70-75, 80, 51-52, 54, 56.

By this action the Council adopted the recommendations of the Committee on A.L.A. Reorganization except in the instance of the Recommendations voted to be tabled or filed which the Committee in its report had recommended be rejected.

On Saturday evening, January 28, 1950 a General Meeting was held at which President Lord introduced the following librarians

from foreign countries: Miss Mary McBride and Miss Daphne Parkinson, England; Miss J. N. Waller, Melbourne, Australia; Mr and Mrs R. J. Immelman, Cape Town, South Africa; Mr and Mrs Juan Carlos Secondi, Montevideo, Uruguay; Miss M. Jacobson, Norway; and Dr T. Kanamori, Tokyo, Japan.

Mr Aubrey Andrews, Chairman of the Committee on Field Citations for Library Recruiting, announced the winners of this year's awards:

(1) The Louisiana State Library Association - $300. award
(2) The Pennsylvania Library Association - $200. award
(3) The Brooklyn Public Library - $100. award
(4) The Jefferson County, Alabama, Student Assistant Association - Honorable mention
(5) The Kentucky Library Association - Honorable mention

The main subject of the evening was Journeys to Libraries Abroad. Mr Milton E. Lord gave an address on the world tour of the Town Hall Seminar on which most members of the staff have been fortunate enough to hear the Director speak.

Miss Margaret C. Scoggin, Nathan Straus Branch, New York Public Library, reported on the International Youth Library opened in Munich on September 14, 1949 in a little castle given by the Bavarian government for this purpose. The Library was made possible through a two-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation which is administered by the A.L.A. and contributions from the German people. The book collection of some 8,000 volumes includes an exhibition of children's books from 23 countries.

Dr Luther H. Evans, Librarian of Congress, recounted his impressions of foreign libraries in France, Switzerland, Italy, Iran, Syria, Egypt, and Mexico, which he has visited in the last two years. He spoke of the distinguished work of M. Cain at the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris and of the notable contribution of Mr Edward Carter to the development of the library program of UNESCO.

A joint meeting of the Public Libraries Division, the Library Extension Division, and the Trustees Division, was scheduled on the evening of Friday, January 27. Dr Woodrow Strickler, Head, Division of Adult Education, University of Louisville, discussed the adult education program jointly sponsored by the University of Louisville and the Louisville Public Library. This program sponsors five neighborhood colleges, the faculty of which is provided by the University of Louisville and the classrooms, books, and facilities, by the Louisville Public Library. Six hundred individuals are now enrolled in these courses ranging in age from 20 to 70 years, 80% of whom are women.

Mr Emerson Greenaway, Enoch Pratt Free Library, expressed the opinion that the public library should not enter the field of formal education, unless there is no other agency in a community equipped to offer such. It is his belief that the practice of pure librarianship and the provision of informal programs is the library's job.

Mrs Carma Zimmerman, Washington State Library, Olympia, the next speaker, felt that the library should not enter the educational field as long as large areas and numbers of people in the United States remain without library service.

Mr Ralph A. Ulveling, Detroit Public Library, stated that he believed the unique contribution of the public library is its tailor-made service, that the library should conduct its own positive programs and remain in an ancillary position to other institutions and programs. He feels that the library must find a new basis for measuring its work other than the misleading, corrupting measure of circulation statistics. He believes that standards of book selection should be based on the evaluation of each book as to the positive contribution it can make to the life of an individual. He believes that the highest type of person is needed in the profession, individuals with deep understanding of people and broad knowledge.

E. L. W.

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M.L.A. MIDWINTER MEETING

The highlight of the midwinter meeting of the Massachusetts Library Association for those who have worked tirelessly to bring into being a law providing for the

certification of librarians in Massachusetts came at the luncheon where two certificates were awarded by Mr Stacy B. Southworth, Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Free Public Library Commissioners. An Honorary Certificate of Librarianship, the first to be given by the State of Massachusetts, was presented to His Honor, Paul A. Dever, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This was followed by the presentation of the first Certificate of Librarianship to Mr Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library and President of the American Library Association.

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The following reports of the various sessions of the midwinter meeting, held at the Copley Plaza Hotel on Thursday, February 9, have been prepared by cooperative members who attended.

THE WORKSHOP ON CIRCULATION PROBLEMS

As there was only one question about circulation problems mailed to the Committee, the Chairman, Miss Judith E. Stromdahl, Librarian of the Weston Public Library, planned the meeting in the form of a panel discussion with four speakers on Public Relations and the Circulation Desk.

Mr Donald McCammond, Eastern Regional Director of the Monsanto Chemical Company, Everett, and a specialist in public relations, analyzed the public's apathy toward libraries to be due to the librarians' failure to inform the public more about their product -- books. Specific suggestions for attracting public attention included talks by librarians before various organizations, a film service for adults and children, open house at the library on anniversaries and holidays, a library newsletter, and broadcasts over the radio and television.

Miss Anna Griffin, Training Supervisor of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, discussed Public Relations over the Telephone. She recommended talking directly in front of the mouthpiece, one-half inch away from the lips; answering the telephone promptly; giving a name or place identification rather than saying, "hello"; explaining a delay; offering to take a message for an absentee, and dismissing the caller courteously.

Although Mrs Barbara Partridge Kohler was a former librarian from Newton, her presentation, What I Look For in a Library, was from the point of view of the public. The two most important factors are friendliness, defined as serving the public willingly and greeting the borrower by name, and quick assistance, defined as accompanying the borrower to the book stacks to find the requested book.

Mr Edward C. Perry, Director of the Framingham Public Library, described how An Administrator Looks at the Circulation Department. He believed that the publicity angle was paramount because there are many more people who could take advantage of library service. Librarians need to be open-minded about new experiments and to be prepared to admit mistakes. We will have to fight competition from recreational sources, if we are to maintain our present 35% of registered public.

H. H.

WORKSHOP ON REFERENCE PROBLEMS IN COLLEGE AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In the foyer of the main ballroom of the Copley Plaza Hotel some 250 people attended the workshop on reference problems in college and public libraries. Conducting the discussion was Mr John A. Humphry, Librarian of the City Library Association in Springfield, assisted by Miss Ruth K. Porritt, Librarian of Radcliffe College. The two leaders of the workshop brought before the large group present several interesting problems of reference work and explained how these problems were dealt with in their libraries. Librarians in the audience contributed to the discussion.

The first question was a timely one. What should a reference librarian do about contest questions? The disadvantages involved with this type of question often become serious, but, as Miss Porritt pointed out, public relations would suffer if a library completely ignored contest questions.

While some of the larger libraries in the state keep records of work performed in their reference departments for budget purposes, it was evident from the discussion that among the libraries there was no uniform method of keeping records. The Worcester Library keeps records of

questions that involve the professional knowledge of the reference librarian; they discount questions of a directional nature. Another speaker cited the inability of current methods of keeping records to indicate the quality as well as quantity of reference work accomplished.

Toward the close of the meeting a question was raised concerning the policy library administrators should adopt when a patron approaches the reference staff with a request for special reference work and an offer of financial remuneration for the work done. Some administrators decide such offers may be accepted and that the work be done outside of library hours.

P. M.

WORKSHOP ON MUSIC IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Miss Marjorie B. Holman, Music Librarian at the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy, conducted the workshop on Music in the Public Library. The discussion was chiefly concerned with the problems of building and maintaining record collections. Problems of policy and budgeting, the storage, cataloging, and replacement of records and albums, whether to buy long-playing records and listening equipment, all brought fruitful suggestions from the librarians attending. Mr Kelsey Swett of the Department of Audio-Visual Aids of the State Department of Education spoke briefly, emphasizing the function of his department in serving librarians as well as teachers. The meeting concluded with the showing of Arturo Toscanini's film, "Hymn of the Nations."

S. R.

ROUND TABLE OF CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

At the overflow meeting of the Round Table of Children's Librarians there was a lively panel discussion on "Community Relations". The wide range of cooperative activities with the schools was stressed. One library has parties for first graders (with their mothers) to introduce them to their books and to give them their first cards, as well as to play, sing, and eat together. Instruction to Scout Troops for Merit and Service Badges have in turn benefited the library when scouts have continued their interest in the work as pages and later as assistants. The Worcester Council for Children's Reading, which attracts parents, teachers, and all those concerned with the education of young people, began with a successful three-day Institute on Children's Reading. It has grown into a strong, representative community group which meets every month, taking on such projects as Story telling. Other facets of good community relations, such as favorable newspaper publicity, individual work with delinquent boys, talks to PTA and other groups, were cited to give practical suggestions to all the Children's Librarians present.

Miss N. Dorothy Shumaker of Norwood acted as Moderator. Participating in the panel were Miss Hester L. Mitchell of Everett, Mrs Joan M. Evans of Medford, Miss Charlotte S. Nye of New Bedford, Miss Margaret Lane of Andover, and Mrs Marguerite Linnehan of Worcester.

P. W.

BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting of the M.L.A. convened at 11:30 a.m. in the foyer. Mr John D. Kelley, Librarian of the Somerville Public Library and President of the M.L.A., was in the chair. After the meeting was brought to order Mr Kelley drew attention to the fact that the association was underwriting the luncheon cost and consequently needed a full registration response. The minutes of the Fall meeting which was held at Swampscott were read by the Secretary, Miss Charlotte K. Bausman, and approved as read. The President called for two minutes of silence in memory of two members who had died since the last meeting: - Mr Edward H. Redstone, Boston Public Library, and Mr Donald K. Campbell, Haverhill Public Library. Mr Harold Woorster, Newton, drew to the attention of the meeting, the passing of Mrs Bertha V. Hartzell, Boston Public Library.

Miss Louise Day, Lynn, Vice President and President elect of the M.L.A. and Chairman of the Program Committee, announced that the Spring meeting will be held in Worcester on Wednesday, May 17, 1950.

Miss Genevieve Boisclair of the Division of Public Libraries announced that the spplications for certificates were receiving

attention and that those received had been reviewed and certificates were in the mail.

Mr John A. Humphry, Springfield, reported for the Librarians Council on World Affairs, a twelve-member organization dedicated to better publicity on world affairs in libraries.

Miss Gertrude Callahan, Quincy, Chairman of the Constitution Committee, reported on several changes in the By-Laws. These are to be given in detail in the next issue of the MLA Bulletin.

Mr Thurston Taylor, Worcester, reported on the progress of the Library Demonstration Bill which is now before the Rules Committee in the House of Representatives.

The President announced that one hundred dollars per year for the next two years had been voted by the Executive Board for the Washington Office.

Miss Edna Phillips, Norwood, reported for the Pioneer Librarians' Group on a study made concerning libraries as part of community surveys made by non-library agencies. Several recommendations were read by Miss Phillips and the following resolution was approved: "That the president appoint a committee to study these recommendations and make contact with survey agencies to present library standards."

The Education Committee, formerly headed by Mr Arthur Parsons, Jr., Brockton, announced that an anonymous donor had given a two hundred dollar scholarship to be awarded this Spring to the most deserving pupil from any public, private, or parochial school in Massachusetts who is interested in continuing scholastic training with librarianship as the ultimate goal. It was suggested the librarian should be more alert in "selling" their advantages to potential library science students as they visit local high schools.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

E. G. P.

LUNCHEON MEETING

"Literary experiences of the past summer in England" was the subject of a delightfully informal talk by Dr Joseph S. G. Bolton of Skidmore College. The long queues everywhere impressed Dr Bolton as typical of English patience and love of fair play. He also noted the instinctive respect of the British for law and order. As the speaker humorously remarked, he and Mrs Bolton thoroughly and uncritically enjoyed England for after a wait of thirty years for their visit, they "could not afford to be disappointed". Travelling simply without elaborate plans or reservations, they made many new friends for even London in spite of its size has kept the friendliness of a small town. The children seemed healthy, well-fed, and well-behaved although their parents seemed half starved and shabby. Visits to Bolton Abbey and their search for the two English birds of literature, the skylark and the nightingale, were delightfully described. In closing Dr Bolton paid a heartfelt tribute to librarians as the "guardians of wonderland" by saying, "Card catalogs are for neat tidy people but librarians are made for people like me."

D. F. N.

AFTERNOON SESSION

At the afternoon session, Mr Mark Bortman was introduced to the membership as "a friend of libraries". Mr Bortman said that librarians are one of the most "underestimated and underprivileged groups" in America today, and that this situation is due partly to the absence of good public relations work and partly to the complacency of librarians themselves --"the squeaking wheel gets the grease". Mr Bortman visited libraries in Russia last summer and observed the manner in which the Russians are building up their libraries as a propaganda weapon, under the guise of culture and education, because they appreciate the power and influence which may be exerted upon a community by a library.

The greatest field ahead for libraries in America is in the large group of college graduates who do not use libraries because it is not fashionable to do so. In this atomic age there is bound to develop a much greater demand upon libraries for technical books, and the businessman will become more dependent upon libraries as a result of the increasing complexities of carrying on national and international trade. Mr Bortman feels that

another depression is bound to come and that when it does come, people will turn to libraries as they did during the last business depression. Today's television programs are for the most part so poor that people are only too glad to have the company of a good book.

Because they represent a guide without pressure, librarians are the greatest force for potential education on a voluntary basis in the community.

*

Mr Orville Prescott, Daily Book Critic for the New York Times, whose subject was printed on the program as "Fashions in Books", told his audience that he felt they knew all about this subject and that he preferred to speak instead on criticism and the practice of it. Mr Prescott writes four out of the six daily book columns in the New York Times. To reach a decision as to what book should be reviewed in the column, there are eliminated first, drug store novels, highly technical books, and authors whose previous books have been rejected. The dozen or so books remaining are divided into books of news importance, books of probable literary merit, and books whose subject matter happens to interest Mr Prescott.

Mr Prescott spends half of each week reading books at his home in the country, and half the week at his New York office handling mail, callers, and the various pressures which are inevitably brought to bear upon a book reviewer. He said that a good book deserves the time it requires to read it; that no fiction review should ever give an outline of the plot; that publishers' cocktail parties for authors feed an author's vanity but have no value to the publisher; and that authors are "dedicated" rather than normal people because success in writing is on such a precarious basis. He feels that book critics, by keeping books alive, are useful.

R. S. C.

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NEVER TOO LATE GROUP

Since January 5, 1950, upwards of a hundred older people have been meeting each Thursday afternoon at two o'clock in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library. Known as the Never Too Late Group, these men and women have planned a series of programs which include discussions of changing world conditions; new opportunities available to older people for service, employment, and civic usefulness; and other problems of particular interest to mentally-alert older people. There are frequent film showings, and lectures by prominent speakers. All people interested in such a program are cordially invited to these meetings.

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NEW BRANCH LIBRARY ON ADAMS STREET, DORCHESTER

Two issues of the City Record (February 11 and February 18) are to carry advertisements for proposals for the erection and completion of the new branch library on Adams Street, Dorchester. Bids from Sub-contractors will be due by 12 o'clock noon February 28, 1950, and from General Contractors by 12 o'clock noon March 2, 1950.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Janeway, Elizabeth
The question of Gregory
Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, 1949

Non-Fiction

Los Angeles. Bureau of Budget and Efficiency.
Organization, administration and management of the Los Angeles Public Library. Vols. 1-2 and 4-6.
Los Angeles, 1948-49.

Vol. 1. General service factors
Vol. 2. Objectives of the library: Appraisal of the book collections
Vol. 4. Extension service for adults
Vol. 5. Extension service for youth
Vol. 6. Extension service requirements

Wight, Edward A.
Connecticut Library survey
Hartford, 1948

A complete file of The Question Mark bound annually, may be found in the Staff Library.

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EXIT AFTER 77 YEARS, 8 MONTHS, 27 DAYS!

The weekend of January 28 dawned gray indeed for the staff of the South Boston Branch Library -- and rapidly grew darker and noisier. Saturday, January 28, was the last day of service to the public in the quarters occupied by the Branch Library since May 1, 1872, but the few who dared to push their way past the men packing books soon hastened out, routed by the racket.

The staff, whose brains nearly burst from confusion on Saturday, really did go crazy on Monday, when to the removal of books and furniture was added the hammering of carpenters dismantling shelves. Faithful members of the public still wandered in, some trying to return books, others completely unmindful of the closing, in spite of signs conspicuously posted and newspaper notices. Between tactfully clearing the Library of those people and answering phone calls from still others, the staff tried to close the Branch Library records and do it correctly.

Two forlorn staff members still survived the next day, when a weird noise made its presence felt as well as heard. Blasting from the floor below was the last straw. With the book collection removed and most of the furniture, the Branch Librarian and the First Assistant beat a hasty retreat to Central Library.

This period of darkness, however, is past. The horizon is bright with the promise of a new South Boston Branch Library. Only three doors from the old building, the new location is at street level and will be ready some time in March 1950.

I. T.

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BOOKMOBILE

Beginning February 13th, and continuing through February 18th, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Boston Public Library has its first Bookmobile on display on the Boston Common, opposite West Street.

Beginning Monday, February 20th, the Boston Public Library will offer library service through its Bookmobile to residents of Boston living far from library buildings -- a service by means of which individuals may choose books for home reading from a 3,500-volume library-on-wheels. The collection is divided almost equally between titles for adults and for children. A Boston Public Library card will entitle the holder to all the privileges that a stationary library grants.

The new library-on-wheels consists of a General Motor Company chassis, 26 feet by 8 feet, the body being a school bus type constructed to specifications of the Library by the Gerstenslager Company of Wooster, Ohio. It is equipped for inside and outside book service depending upon the weather.

Two seats at the front convert into service facilities for the discharge of books and registration activities. Another seat and a desk at the rear exit will be used for charging books. Bulletin boards, a magazine rack, and supply closets are all provided. The unit is insulated and thermostatically heated; has safety glass, fluorescent lighting and steel shelving. The Bookmobile will be serviced by members of the Boston Public Library staff.

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A simple inauguration ceremony took place in front of the Bookmobile on Boston Common on Monday, February 13, at 2:30 p.m., when His Honor the Mayor, John B. Hynes officially announced Bookmobile service to the city. The Library was represented by three Trustees, Mr Frank W. Buxton, President of the Board, Reverend Robert H. Lord, and Mr Francis B. Masterson, and by the Director, Mr Milton E. Lord.

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EXHIBITIONS PROGRAM

On February first the planning of Central Library exhibits was transferred to the Director's Office. Eventually it is expected that all exhibits within the Library system will be coordinated under the new arrangement. In the beginning, emphasis is to be placed on getting new material every two or three weeks into the new bronze-framed cases (described in previous issues of The Question Mark) which are in the front lobby.

Mr Thomas J. Manning, formerly of the Patent Room, is in charge of these exhibits and he reports that much "help" has been offered, both by members of the staff and

by unidentified members of the public, from the time he opened the first glass door until the last item was put into position. He had difficulty keeping some of the more enthusiastic children from practically climbing into the open cases. In spite of his "helpers", he has managed to set up one of the most attractive displays the Library has had in a long time: Washingtoniana in two cases, Fifty Great Books of 1949 and children's books showing fine illustrations by French artists in the other two cases. Strategically placed as these displays are, they should stimulate much reader interest.

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THE B.P.L. QUARTER CENTURY CLUB HONORS TRUSTEES

On Tuesday evening, January 31, 1950, the newly-reorganized Quarter Century Club honored the Trustees of the Library at a dinner held in the Dome Room at the Hotel Lenox. Some hundred members of the Club and their friends were present. At the head table were the three guests of the evening, Mr Frank W. Buxton, Mr Francis B. Masterson, and Mr Lee Friedman. Reverend Robert H. Lord and Judge Frank Donahue were unable to attend. There were also seated at the head table Mr George W. Gallagher, President of the Club, Mrs Francis B. Masterson, Mr Milton E. Lord, Director, Mr Orlando C. Davis, Mrs Ada A. Andelman, Mrs Mary K. Harris, Miss Bessie L. Doherty, and Miss Fanny Goldstein.

In the course of the evening the three Trustees spoke in turn, each winning from those present a warm appreciation of their delightful styles of address and of their messages of cooperation and understanding of the problems of the Library. His Honor the Mayor, John B. Hynes, arrived shortly after 10:00 p.m. and spoke of his appreciation of length of public service. He also spoke of certain pressing problems, and mentioned the fact that the Library budget had had a substantial sum restored to it only that afternoon, after a conference with the Director.

Other speakers of the evening included Mr Lord, Mrs Harris, Miss Doherty, and Miss Goldstein. Mrs Harris read a letter from Fred Allen (quoted below) -- penned, not typed, in his own inimitable style. Miss Doherty reminisced of her early days in the Library when lights were still a problem. Despite interruptions by a Mayor, a mouse and a cat, Miss Goldstein introduced the musical program which she had arranged. The artists were: Mildred E. Kravitz, cellist, Flora Roussos, mezzo-soprano, and Pauline Shrier, accompanist.

BEVERLY WILSHIRE

BEVERLY HILLS - CALIFORNIA - CRESTVIEW 5-4282

JANUARY 15, 1950

MRS. MARY K. HARRIS-

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND INVITATION TO ATTEND THE LIBRARY DINNER ON JANUARY 31ST.

UNFORTUNATELY, PORTLAND AND I ARE OUT HERE IN HOLLYWOOD. SINCE WE WILL BE WORKING HERE UNTIL LATE IN FEBRUARY THERE IS NO POSSIBLE WAY WE CAN JOIN YOU IN THE CALORIE DESTRUCTION AND TRIBUTE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

MY PART IN THE RISE OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AS AN INSTITUTION WAS A MEAGRE ONE. I CARRIED HUNDREDS OF BOOKS INTO BATES HALL AND I CARRIED THEM BACK TO THE STACKS. I WAS SO BUSY CARRYING BOOKS THAT I HAD NO TIME TO OPEN THEM AND EXPAND MENTALLY. FINALLY, I ABANDONED MY LIBRARY CHORES AND ENTERED THE THEATRE WHERE LEARNING WAS OF SMALL IMPORT. AS A MORON, I HAVE THRIVED.

HAD I REMAINED AT THE LIBRARY I WOULD NOW BE A MENTAL GIANT, LIVING IN BOSTON WITH TIME AVAILABLE TO ACCEPT YOUR CALL TO APPEAR AMONG MY FORMER ASSOCIATES WITH INTENT TO MAKE MERRY.

YOU CAN APPRECIATE MY ANGUISH AS I PEN YOU MY REGRETS.

FRED ALLEN

Editor's Note: "penned, not typed"-- should the letter be added to the Library's manuscript collection?

*

ENIGMA

A question - well just a bit scary -
And not in the least literary
Has got us all guessing -
With shivers depressing -
Of the action which brought down the house

At the Trustees' fine party
Where we'd planned to eat hearty --

"Could you tell if t'was
Or t'was not
A REAL MOUSE?"

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B.P.L.E.B.A., INC. VALENTINE PARTY

The Boston Public Library Employees Benefit Association, Inc., held a Valentine Dance and Whist Party in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library on Saturday evening, February 11, 1950. There were more than two hundred members and friends present. Mr Francis B. Masterson and Mr and Mrs Lord were the honored guests.

By request there was a session of "square dancing" with Mr Lord as "caller".

The door prize was won by Miss Joan Lockyer, guest of Miss Mary E. Lyons of the Information Office.

Chances were sold on a Symphonic triomatic record player and the winner was Miss Elizabeth B. Boudreau of the Information Office.

All Departments and Branch Libraries donated prizes so that every other whist player was a winner. Topping all this with the good music of Frankie Myers and his orchestra, the evening was fun for all.

F. P. B.

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BRANCH LIBRARY NOTES

Jamaica Plain

The Great Books Discussion Group has this year had a chance to gather a number of persons together who represent the American people. They are of all religious beliefs, all ages from twenty to seventy-five, all walks of life, a lawyer, an insurance agent, a typist, a nurse, several mothers of families, a social worker, a store manager, an accountant, an optometrist, an engineer and a retired business man. These hardworking people, with their responsibilities, families to raise, parents to help, with all the joys, sorrows, ambitions, and set-backs common to all of us have still managed to find time to read the parts of the works requisite to joining the Great Books discussions and their conclusions are these: "I never realized what fun this could be", "Ten o'clock comes too soon; we could argue on this all night", and, on the really constructive side, "These men really had something, didn't they?" These remarks have come at the end of two hours of talks on the books under discussion - None were tired - none wanted to go home.

Agreement has never characterized the meetings; with people of such varying temperaments, different backgrounds and outlooks, arguments were hot and heavy but - and a large but - these individuals, many of whom had never seen one another before, became so friendly toward one another that they are now planning a social night where we can just talk about everything that popped up during the year and incidentally fling a few questions at us, the co-leaders, Mrs Evelyn Green and Miss Mary Louise Gilman.

*

An interesting collection of Chinese art is on display, as this is the time when the Chinese people celebrate the New Year with all the trappings of paper lanterns, fire crackers, and feasts. The Library has been lent the articles on display by institutions and friends in the neighborhood.

This exhibit is to honor Mr Jan Quen and associates, residents of Jamaica Plain, and friends of the Library. They contributed to a fund with which appropriate books have been selected by Miss Rebecca E. Willis, Branch Librarian.

Chinese story hours were held on Friday afternoon, January 27, and Wednesday afternoon, February 1, at 3:30 in the Children's Room.

A Chinese tea is planned for Monday evening, February 20, at 8 o'clock. Mr David Tung, Executive Director of the Chinese Y on Tyler Street, will speak on Chinese customs. Friends are invited.

Jeffries Point

The Branch Library is actively participating in the formation of a Recreational Service Committee. All agencies in the district -- neighborhood houses, schools, churches, and the library -- are working together to study the existing services, to effect whatever changes seem necessary, and to encourage cooperation among groups working in the field of recreation. Monthly meetings are planned, and it is

hoped that this opportunity for the exchange of plans and programs, and the resultant coordinated efforts, will be of mutual benefit to the young people of this community, and to those working with them.

North End

Brotherhood Week and Catholic Book Week will be observed from February 19 through 25. Classes from the Christopher Columbus High School, St. Anthony's School, and St. John's School will come to the Library to see "The Eternal City," a film from the Boston Public Library Film Collection. Pupils and teachers are enthusiastically anticipating this film which is a Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome. In it one sees all the landmarks that the pilgrims will visit, the ancient as well as the modern city, the many beautiful churches, and, last but not least, the Vatican itself. Reading lists appropriate to the various grades have been prepared for distribution.

*

The North End Girls' Reading Club will hold its February meeting on Monday the 21st. Miss Josephine Greco, a Junior at Lesley College, will tell the girls about her recent visit to the United Nations. She has many photographs with which to illustrate her talk. On the same program Miss Rose Durante, a Junior at Boston Teachers' College, will comment on her first attendance at an opera, the San Carlo's Carmen. Both of these girls are Club members. There will also be brief book reviews.

South End

The South End children have made valentines of original designs under the supervision of Miss Martha Engler and Mrs Anna Shanor. The valentines have been sent to the Benjamin Franklin Library in Mexico City in return for the hand-made Christmas cards that the Mexican children sent at Christmas time.

West End

Negro History Week, February 11th through February 18th, is being observed in grand style. An exhibition of lithographs of the works of the Boston Negro artist, John Wilson, and the Framingham sculptress, Mrs Solomon Fuller, will be featured. Books and other Negro pictures are an important part of the observance. Saturday evening, February 18th, Miss Shirley Graham, author of The Story of Phyllis Wheatly, Your Humble Servant and other books will be chief speaker at the Negro History Week Program. Her topic will be "The Negro in American Literature." The musical portion of the program will be under the direction of Dr William H. Rhodes. Mr Herbert Jackson, president of the Malden City Council, will be the Master of Ceremonies. A reception will follow.

*

The highlight of the exhibition "All roads lead to Rome" will be a replica of the 15th Century statue of Saint Peter from the high altar of Saint Peter's Cathedral, Rome, enthroned on the Apostolic Chair, lent by Monseigneur Edward G. Murray, and climaxes the large exhibition commemorating Catholic Book Week, February 19th through 25th. The St. Joseph's parochial school, as a part of the commemoration, will run an essay contest on "My Imaginary Pilgrimage to Rome." The judges are Rev. Francis P. Moran, editor of The Pilot, Mrs. Phillip J. McNiff, Cambridge literary critic; and Mrs Dorothy G. Wayman, Boston Globe writer.

*

Miss Fanny Goldstein will conduct a tour of continental libraries late this summer. Her previous experience in conducting library tours and her professional contacts abroad should insure a most interesting and profitable trip for every member of the tour. Are you an interested traveller? If so, contact Miss Goldstein!

West Roxbury

Last month in cooperation with the International Relations Committee of the West Roxbury Woman's Club, the Library sponsored a most successful program on the subject of Displaced Persons. The film Tomorrow's a wonderful day was shown. It tells the story of a fifteen-year-old Jewish boy, a former concentration camp inmate, from the day of his arrival in a Children's Village in Israel to the time of his complete rehabilitation through the guidance and love of the leaders. The picture, which was of far wider significance than the fate of one boy or one people, created an awareness of the need of the mass of displaced humanity in Europe and our responsibility toward them, both there

and in our own country. The Rev. William J. Hamilton, minister of the West Roxbury Congregational Church, who has had experience both in his church and home with this problem, was the speaker. He made suggestions as to the practical handling of the situations involved and as to the attitude to be adopted. The reality of the problem to the community was emphasized by the presence of a Latvian mother, now residing in West Roxbury with her three children, who answered from the audience.

*

During the month of February there are on display miniature books borrowed from the collection of Miss Edith Guerrier. Of special interest are the Koran in locket form and the chained book on its lectern. In the case in the Young People's Room a book of facsimile pages from the Gutenberg Bible is opened to the Twenty-Third Psalm and in contrast to it a miniature Bible is opened at the same selection. Illustrated books of Bible stories and the life of Gutenberg complete the exhibit.

****

OFFICE NOTES

Trustees' Office

On Friday, February 10, the staff of the Trustees' Office honored Mrs Isabelle M. Leen at a luncheon in the Town Room at the Copley Plaza Hotel.

****

THE INFORMATION OFFICE MEETS

"OUR DEAR PUBLIC"

An elderly gentleman complained that the radio on the X-ray truck outside the Newspaper Room made so much noise that he was unable to read his paper. "Moreover," he added, "the men in that room all keep their hats on. I never saw anything like it."

*

Another man suggested that the Library have a few cat o' nine tails growing by the pool "to break up the monotony."

*

A very charming woman said: "I am delighted with the courtesy of the Boston people. They may talk of Southern hospitality -- it can't beat Boston graciousness."

*

A middle-aged woman asked: "What happened to the lions that used to be out in front of the Library? I had my picture taken in front of them." The attendant tried to explain that the lions had always been on the stairs inside the Library, but was interrupted. "Well, I know what I am talking about. They gave them to the New York Public Library. The New York librarian told me so. I'll bring the picture down here to prove that I am right."

*

A young lady vaguely inquired for books on economics. Further questioning revealed that she had been asked to write a paper on "How to select the proper foods."

*

Another young lady wished to know if the Library bought antiques. "You see, I have some very lovely ones which I made myself," she added.

****

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

Editor's Note: In order that any misunderstanding with regard to unsigned articles appearing in the Soap Box may be cleared up, the rules governing acceptance of articles will be stated in each issue of The Question Mark. These rules have been adhered to rigidly in all issues comprising Volumes 2 to 4, inclusive. It is assumed that the first Editor-in-Chief, under whom the Soap Box came into being, abided by the same rules in Volume 1. Since she is now in Europe, this statement cannot be checked in time for the February 1950 issue.

DOGGEREALITY

The gates of heaven are closed to me
Though through the bars a glimpse I see
Of almost-nine activity.

I left my home in ample time
To reach my desk ahead of nine

But the MTA has endearing ways
Of finding new methods to spoil my days

For to my boss, should I be late
To write a letter is my fate

Explaining how and when and why
As though a child in school were I.

A shorter route exists, alas,
If through those portals I might pass.

The subway stairs have got my breath
These extra yards will be my death.

The things I carry weigh half a ton
They'll gain three more before I'm done

And a lazy tide of early birds will flow
The corridor -- opposite to the way I go.

The City would not lose a cent
If the harsh ruling they'd relent

For Cerberus stands there marking time
The last ten minutes before nine!

It's gotten so I pray for rain
That I may those extra minutes gain ...

The gates of heaven now closed to me
Could precious minutes save, you see.

****

LATE FLASH

Mr and Mrs Ralph J. Doucette have announced the birth of a son, John Joseph, on February 13, 1950. Mrs Doucette is the former Alice Morley of the Business Office.

****

Editor's Note:

In the interest of economy -- paper, handling, postage -- the Publications Committee is now using both sides of each sheet of paper (with the exception of the inside of the front cover). Before the March issue appears, we shall have acquired heavier paper and a quicker drying ink.

****

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

Officers and Standing Committees, 1950

President	Edna G. Peck
Vice President	Ruth S. Cannell
Corresponding Secretary	Marie J. Pinco
Recording Secretary	Julia M. Manning
Treasurer	Charles J. Gillis

The Executive Board

Charles L. Higgins — Louisa S. Metcalf
Mary M. McDonough — Margaret A. Morgan

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Elizabeth G. Barry	Statistical Department

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Margaret A. Calnan	Connolly Branch Library
Duilia Capobianco	East Boston Branch Library
M. Gertrude Chipman	Book Stack Service
G. Florence Connolly	Fine Arts Department
Mary F. Daly	Statistical Department
Marie R. Kennedy	Mt. Bowdoin Branch Library
Emelia M. Lange	General Reference Department
Ethel L. O'Brien	Book Stack Service
Joyce C. Rylander	Office of Chief Librarian Reference Division
Helen Savakian	Information Office

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Pauline Winnick, Chairman	Codman Square Branch Library
Anne E. Armstrong	Young People's Room
Jennie M. Femino	East Boston Branch Library
Mary Golden	Mattapan Branch Library
May C. McDonald	School Issue Department
Mrs Julia J. Miller	Mt. Bowdoin Branch Library

Men's House

Sidney Weinberg, Chairman	Science and Technology Department (Patent Room)
Matthew P. Gallagher	History Department
Arthur W. Mulloney	Statistical Department

Program

Mrs Geraldine S. Herrick, Chairman	North End Branch Library
Mrs Dorothy M. Lovett	Kirstein Business Branch
Louis Rains	General Reference Department
Mrs Beryl Y. Robinson	East Boston Branch Library
Gladys R. White	Mt. Pleasant Branch Library

Publications

Sarah M. Usher, Chairman	Office of Records, Files and Statistics
Mildred R. Adelson	Jamaica Plain Branch Library
John M. Carroll	General Reference Department
Eleanor Di Giannantonio	Kirstein Business Branch
Mrs Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom	City Point Branch Library

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Esther J. Leonard, Chairman	Teachers Department
Harry Andrews	Branch Issue Department
Arthur W. Mulloney	Statistical Department
Ollie J. Partridge	Open Shelf Department
Gilda O. Rossetti	Kirstein Business Branch
Moorfield Storey, Jr.	Rare Book Department

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Josephine M. Deluca	Registration Department
Marion H. Dowling	Fine Arts Department
Eleanor F. Halligan	Statistical Department
Mrs Mary B. Murphy	Teachers Department
Sheila W. Pierce	Book Stack Service
Minna Steinberg	Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division

Special Committees

Auditing

Samuel Green	Business Office
Aaron A. Starr	Business Office

CARE

Helen L. Lambert, Chairman	Uphams Corner Branch Library
Doris N. French	School Issue Department
Mrs Florence K. Goodman	Mattapan Branch Library
Mrs Bertha Keswick	Branch Issue Department

In-Service-Training

Pauline A. Walker, Chairman	West Roxbury Branch Library
Mrs Geraldine T. Beck	Connolly Branch Library
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Evelyn Levy	Brighton Branch Library
M. Catherine Robbins	Director's Office

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Marie T. Cronin	West Roxbury Branch Library
Dorothy P. Shaw	Periodical Department
Gladys R. White	Mt. Pleasant Branch Library

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Mildred R. Somes	Book Preparation Department

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume V, Number 3 March 1950

Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, M. Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

Publication date
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

"The staff has always been instructed to extend every courtesy to the Public. Why isn't this same courtesy extended to the staff by Branch Librarians and Chiefs of Departments? I believe it is courteous to greet members of the staff in the morning and to say a word of farewell when they are leaving instead of brushing past them without a word. I believe if this were corrected, it would create a more harmonious feeling among staffs."

This is in essence a question submitted by a staff member and read at the March staff meetings. To those in the Officer Group -- or in any other group, for that matter -- it is food for thought. Obviously there is in an executive position in our system at least one individual who apparently does not practice toward those on his, or her, staff the simplest courtesy -- a greeting at first meeting in the day and a word of farewell at the close of the day; else, there would have been no such question asked. If one, then how many more staff members have this same failing?

It behooves all of us, in whatever position we find ourselves, to re-examine our attitude toward our fellow workers and to make sure that we treat them courteously at all times and in all situations. There should be no double standards of courtesy. All human beings as individuals should be treated with the same degree of courtesy, whether they be staff members or members of the Public.

In the August issue of The Question Mark there appeared some stanzas on the value of a smile. Reread them! Maybe the winter winds have chilled your face into a rigid scowl. Don't let it become permanent. "Good Morning" -- or "Good Night"— with a smile, requires very little effort; almost no time; and does not cost a cent. Yet, as the questioner concludes, it makes for harmony and helps boost morale.

****

IN THE INTERESTS OF BREVITY AND PROMPTNESS

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
"To think of many things."

With the Publications Committee, it is time to consider the length of each issue of The Question Mark. Beginning with a 3-page bulletin, without cover, in March 1946, it reached an all-time "long" of 28 pages, plus cover, in February 1950. We feel that this reflects interest and enthusiasm on the part of the staff.

We are continuing to assume that:

1. that you want a monthly staff paper, appearing regularly on a stated date;
2. that you want information on professional meetings and publications;
3. that you want to know what is happening professionally and socially in other branch libraries, departments, and offices, and among our alumnae; and
4. that you want a Soap Box.

However, to accomplish all these, we must re-enlist your aid. We suggest that you consider everything you submit from three points of view:

1. Is it of real interest to other members of the staff?
2. Have I made it as short as I can, consistent with accuracy?
3. Will it reach the Editor by the tenth of the month?

If the answer to all three questions is "Yes", send the contribution along. We shall strive to include all that we receive as fully as possible.

We bespeak your thoughtful cooperation.

****

PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Miss Ingrid E. Kyler, Fine Arts Department.

Miss Gloria E. Oxman, Book Stack Service.

Mr Louis R. O'Halloran, Cataloging and Classification Department, Circulation Division.

Mr Robert T. Smart, Kirstein Business Branch. Mr Smart was formerly a part-time employee at the School Issue Department.

Miss Claire C. Spellman, Book Stack Service.

Transferred

Mr Sidney Weinberg, General Reference Department, to Science and Technology Department (Patent Room).

Engagements

Miss Anne P. Connors, Assistant at Charlestown Branch Library, to Mr James T. Kearney of Dorchester. July 1, 1950 has been set as the wedding date.

Miss Janet Rabinovitz, Extra Assistant in the Open Shelf Department, to Mr Sidney F. Quint of Dorchester.

Marriages

Miss Fannie C. Wong, Uphams Corner Branch Library, was married on February 20, 1950, to Mr George F. Chung.

Resignations

Miss Martha R. Herman, Charlestown Branch Library.

Mr Robert J. Carner, Rare Book Department.

****

MEMBERSHIP ON PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Miss Anne Armstrong, Assistant, Young People's Room, Miss Catherine E. Flannery, Branch Librarian, Orient Heights Branch Library, Mrs Mary K. Harris, Branch Librarian, Charlestown Branch Library, Miss Anna Manning, Chief of the Teachers Department, and Miss Mary Louise Gilman, Children's Librarian, Lower Mills Branch Library, were members of the Catholic Book Week Committee for the New England Unit of the Catholic Library Association.

*

Mr Edward X. Casey, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division, is serving on the Nominating Committee of the Boston Regional Group of Catalogers and Classifiers.

*

Mrs Sarah W. Flannery, Chief of the History Department, is a member of the Librarians' Advisory Committee of the United Council on World Affairs which is co-sponsoring, with the Massachusetts Library Association, a contest designed to stimulate interest in international relations and to increase the circulation of books on that subject. Mrs Ethel B. Chandler, Librarian of the East Bridgewater Public Library, is Chairman of the Committee.

*

Miss Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor of Work with Children, is the Treasurer of the ALA Children's Library Association and is a member of the Newbery, Caldecott Awards Committee.

*

Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults, is serving on the Planning Committee for a Pre-Conference Institute on Adult Education to be held prior to the ALA meeting in July 1950.

*

Miss Mildred C. O'Connor, Chief of the Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division, is a member of the Committee on Publications of the ALA Division of Cataloging and Classification.

*

Mrs Elizabeth L. Wright, Supervisor of Personnel, has been appointed a member of the ALA Board of Education for Librarianship for a five-year term beginning with 1950, and is a member of the ALA Friends of Libraries Committee.

****

SPEECHES BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF

Miss Edna G. Peck, Chief of the Book Selection Department, Circulation Division, has given three book talks recently: On February 1, 1950, at a meeting of the Business Girls' Group at the YWCA; on February 8, 1950, at a meeting of the Boston Simmons Club; and on March 2, 1950, at the monthly dinner meeting of the Boston Chapter of the National Secretaries' Association.

*

Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults, was the speaker at a luncheon meeting of the Committee on the Care of the Aged of the Greater Boston Community Council on March 7, 1950. She spoke about the activities of the Boston Public Library "Never Too Late Group".

****

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Miss Elaine Corcoran, Extra Assistant at Parker Hill Branch Library, heads the Dean's List for the Freshman Class at Emmanuel College.

****

ALUMNAE NOTES

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Florence Adelson, formerly of East Boston Branch Library, to Mr Allen S. Angoff of New York City. The wedding will take place on March 30, 1950. Mr Angoff formerly worked in the Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division.

*

Miss Mildred R. Lasser, formerly of the Science and Technology Department, has recently joined the staff of the Bridgeport, Connecticut, Public Library, as Chief of the Science and Technology Department.

*

Mr Martin Rabinovitz, formerly of the Open Shelf and Music Departments, sailed for England on the Ile de France on March 11. After a six weeks' tour of Europe, he and his wife go to Israel where they will remain for ten months.

*

Unsolicited comments by Alumnae

"There are many items in it (The Question Mark) of interest to me. You and your committee are doing a good work well, and the Library is indebted to you all."

E. B. T.

"Have enjoyed every number."

K. F. A.

Editor's Note: Comments and news from Alumnae are always welcome.

****

AN ORCHID FOR A BRIGHT IDEA

Confronted with the challenging proposition -- "Because of lack of funds, all books placed in the new Bookmobile cannot be fresh, new copies; but, nevertheless, they must give the appearance of being so" -- the resourceful Chief of the Book Preparation Department did some serious thinking and came up with an answer which is ingenious, utilitarian, and esthetic. She visited a wall paper show room and chose remnants in patterns "neat but not gaudy". Under her supervision, her efficient corps of workers cut the paper so that when covering the books the designs appeared to best advantage; pasted on them labels on which had been printed the authors and titles; and then adjusted the plastic covers which have become extremely popular. Presto! Poor, worn library bindings, not as clean as when they first came from the Binding Department, are now so well disguised that the Bookmobile is having difficulty in keeping any on its shelves. Congratulations to Miss Mary M. McDonough!!!

****

E. G. P. SMILES APPROVAL

In the March 1, 1950 issue of the Library Journal, on page 373, is a picture

of our President, Miss Edna G. Peck, witnessing the presentation of a check of $100 to CARE. The check is being presented to Mr Malcolm Leete, New England Director of the CARE program, by Mr Eamon McDonough, Chairman of the BPLPSA Committee on CARE, and is notable because it brings our contributions to the $1,000 mark.

****

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The recent meeting of the Executive Board, on Tuesday, February 28, produced many things which should be of interest to the membership as a whole.

*

A new committee on Sabbatical Leaves has been appointed to carry on the very thorough piece of groundwork done by the Sabbatical Leave Committee of 1949, headed by Miss Pearl Smart. The new committee was requested to carry forward the study begun by last year's committee and to be ready, if possible, to present some concrete suggestions on the problem of Sabbatical Leaves to the Administration before this year is completed. The 1950 Committee is made up of the following Association members:

Miss A. Virginia Haviland, Chairman, Phillips Brooks Branch Library
Mr Edward X. Casey, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division
Miss Jeannette A. Pepin, Lower Mills Branch Library
Miss Edith M. Sliney, Office of Records, Files, Statistics.

*

Based on an inquiry in the Soap Box (December, 1949) relative to the possibility of having The Question Mark printed, the following suggestions were sent forward to the Publications Committee:

(1) That six copies of The Question Mark be run off on bond paper for binding. In this form The Question Mark can be preserved almost as long as would be possible in the printed form; (2) that when the time comes for plans to be made for the preservation of a complete file of The Question Mark, due consideration be given to the possibility of using microfilm. This will eliminate the cost of printing, which would be prohibitive were the publication to continue at its present size, and at the same time it would preserve the publication in a modern form which would solve the storage problem.

*

The report on the questionnaire concerning payment of salary by check versus payment by cash is as follows:

Number of ballots	
Sent out	880
Checked and returned	716(81%)
Number of ballots	
Indicating cash payments	400
Indicating payment by check	278
Indicating no choice	8
Too late to be included	30

Since ballots were sent to all staff members, part-time as well as full-time, the question remains whether or not this is a true picture of the wishes of those staff members who are responsible for the receipt of the weekly payroll.

*

The two staff members, Mr Sidney Weinberg and Mr Louis Polishook, who were invited to represent the Staff Association in the legislative procedure necessary to reimburse those employees of the Library who lost their pay as a result of the safe robbery on December 22, 1949, report that a bill was filed with the clerk of the House of Representatives of the General Court of Massachusetts on February 16, 1950. However, owing to the late filing of the bill, it was further necessary, as a prerequisite to legislative action in the current session, that there be effected a suspension of Rule 7B of the House Rules. To bring this about it was necessary to obtain the approval of our bill by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Boston. The Mayor requested that another survey of the robbery facts be presented to him. When informed of this need, the Director sent forward at once

the necessary facts. This information from the Director went to the Mayor's office on February 24, 1950. A verbal report from the Mayor's office states that he has approved the request that the bill be filed and has sent the communication forward to the City Council for its decision on the matter. No further action can be taken until word is received from that body.

The Association representatives carrying on this work would like to express their appreciation to the Director for his cooperation; to Mr John J. Connolly, Assistant to the Director, and Chief Executive Officer, for his liaison function in enlisting the unofficial aid of Mr William Kerr of the City of Boston Law Department who drafted the legislation, and to the following Representatives for their sponsorship of the bill, Honorable Edmond J. Donlan, Honorable John F. Collins, Honorable James C. Bailey, and Honorable James F. Condon, all of Boston. The membership of the Association joins in the thanks to all those who are giving of their time and effort to accomplish the objective that those who lost their pay through the theft shall be reimbursed. This is not an easy assignment and the results to date have been possible only by the concentrated effort and complete cooperation of the State and City officials, the Library Administration, and the Association representatives. It is our sincere wish that their efforts shall culminate in complete success.

The Boston Public Library Employees Benefit Association, Inc. is co-sponsor with the BPLPSA of this bill. However, word concerning the participation of the former group was received too late to include a representative from that organization on the special committee appointed to see the bill through the Legislature. Nevertheless, their sponsorship is of real help in presenting a united front.

*

Another matter that is of vital interest to the membership is the progress on the Concession. Mr Aaron Starr, chairman of the special concession committee, reports that development is slow. This slow-motion process is not due to neglect or indifference on the part of the committee or the administration. The installation of such a unit is a major task. It requires careful planning and a wise expenditure of funds. Mr Starr and his committee have done a fine job and they have had the complete cooperation of the administration at every step. However, there are many steps and to date the following has been accomplished:

The services of a concessionaire have been engaged. He has submitted his prices for food and drinks and indicated his needs in the line of equipment. Plans for the physical layout, with necessary units indicated, have been drawn up by the committee and by the Library's architect. These plans have been submitted to the Director. Since they involve a considerable sum of money, it may take some time to make an adequate study of the proposed expenditure. As soon as the Director and the Trustees can come to a decision as to how much money is available for such a project, they will give the signal for the committee to go forward and trim its sails to meet the budget requirements. Don't give up! Everyone concerned is working hard in order that you may have the right cup of coffee at the right time, in the right place, at the right price, and in the right atmosphere. Those of us on the outside looking in have but a scant perception of the details involved in setting up a project of this magnitude. It may be long in coming but we are sure of one thing -- when it does come it will be a credit both to the Library and to the Association.

*

It is with regret that I call your attention to the following. Through "the grapevine", which, like Mr Drew Pearson's "predictions of things to come", is generally 87% correct, it was learned that the New England News Company had been rather badly inconvenienced financially (to put it mildly) during the recent Christmas season due to the fact that several BPL employees ordered books and then failed to carry out their part of the bargain by claiming and paying for the books ordered. A check with the manager at the New England News Company revealed that this rumor was all too true. As a staff there is no doubt that we are grateful for the discount courtesies extended to us by the New England News Company. It seems unfortunate that because a few choose to abuse this privilege, all members should

be made to pay should the privilege be withdrawn, as it undoubtedly will be, if the practice continues of failing to redeem the orders which have been made especially for BPL individuals. This is an individual responsibility. It is certain that no one would intentionally jeopardize the rights of others by their own carelessness. Let us each one remember that once a book is ordered it becomes our individual responsibility to see the order through and not "change our mind" and leave the book store to take over what is morally our responsibility.

*

Several additional firms have indicated their willingness to be included on our discount list. A mimeographed list will be sent out, to be added to the original list. Presentation of BPL staff membership cards (not necessarily BPLPSA membership cards) is essential.

*

Since the list of committees for 1950 was issued, two names have been added. Mrs Eleanora N. Chaplik. Washington Village Branch Library, is a member of the Staff Library committee. Mrs Barbara P. Cotter, Reference Division Office, is serving on the committee on Personnel Service Ratings.

An error was made, entirely due to the fault of the President, in one name on the list of Field Representatives, issued on February 8, 1950. East Boston Branch Library is represented by Miss Patience Williams, not by Patricia-Ann. Our apologies, please, Miss Williams. The next time we will leave a changing of names in your hands. No doubt you will change the last and not the first name.

*

The professional and social activities of the Association move on apace.

The recent open meeting of the Association at which Mr Joseph Dinneen was the guest speaker was reported to be very successful. The chairman of the Entertainment Committee reported that over two hundred guests were served refreshments at a total cost of $56.17.

Plans are well on the way for a Fashion Show to be held in the spring. Details will be given later, as soon as final arrangements are completed.

The young folks, as well as some of us who are not so young, will be glad to hear that another country dance is included in the schedule of spring events. The date has been set, tentatively, as Friday, April 21. Details later.

*

If the Flower Show is at Mechanics Hall, can spring be far behind? -- Synonymous with spring is baseball. Of course, the ladies will not be interested in this announcement but the men might like to know that a special committee is at work on staff baseball interests. This committee has up its sleeve plans for an open meeting, at which representatives from the two teams -- the Braves and the Red Sox, of course (are there other ball teams?) -- would be present and discuss the baseball outlook for 1950. It is also hoped that arrangements can be made for the purchase of a block of tickets to be sold to staff members, for a couple of the big league night games. This special committee consists of the following:

Mr Frank P. Bruno, Chairman, Patent Room
Mr Samuel Green, Business Office
Mr Patrick O. Murtagh, Book Stack Service
Mr Donald L. Newman, Office of Records, Files, Statistics
Mr Paul Smith, Business Office.

*

We are sorry to report that the plans for a Food Fair, which had been considered as one means of raising funds, had to be abandoned. Technicalities make it impossible for such a project to be carried on in the Library. Our exchequer is shrinking. Anyone any bright ideas on how to swell the coffers?

****

HOW ABOUT A WEEK-END IN NEW YORK?

A plan is being offered by the Hotel Governor Clinton, New York, for group weekends in New York. For $8.95 per person there can be arranged a two-days -- one-night visit to the great City. Room for two with private bath, breakfast in the Hotel Governor Clinton Coffee Shop, and

conducted tours to points of interest in the city. Anyone interested? If so please communicate with Miss Peck, Book Selection Department, who has additional information. If a sufficient number of staff members should be interested it might be possible to arrange such a trip some time during the spring.

Arrangements offered by the hotel are such that it will be possible for the Association to benefit financially from such an undertaking.

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CATHOLIC BOOK WEEK

Catholic Book Week in Boston was formally opened on February eighteenth at John Hancock Hall, by a Christopher Book Forum, sponsored jointly by the New England Unit of the Catholic Library Association and the League of Catholic Women.

The Forum was conducted by Reverend Harold C. Gardiner, S.J., Literary Editor of America. The principal speakers were Mr George Howe, author of Call it Treason, and Mr Leo Brady, author of Edge of Doom. They discussed their books and told interesting events and anecdotes incident to writing the stories. Bishop John Wright, well-known to the staff of the Boston Public Library, also addressed the group. Tea was served after the meeting.

Reverend John A. Broderick, Librarian of the Creagh Research Library at St. John's Seminary, was Chairman of the Catholic Book Week Committee. Other members of the Committee, in addition to those on the Boston Public Library staff, were: Reverend Cornelius Sherlock, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, Mr John O'Loughlin and Mr Thomas V. Reiners, Boston College Library, Mr Philip McNiff, Lamont Library, and Miss Alice Buckley, East Boston High School Library.

A. L. M.

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BOOKMOBILE SERVICE UNDER WAY

Book service to the residents of various sections of the City of Boston, via our new Bookmobile, was inaugurated in the week beginning Monday, February 20. No formal ceremonies marked the beginning of this service. However, the Director of the Library was present on each first day for each district. Mr Lord was joined by the following City Councilors who were on hand for their respective districts: City Councilor John B. Wenzler (South Boston - Ward 6), City Councilor Vincent J. Shanley (Brighton - Ward 22), City Councilor Philip A. Tracy (Roxbury - Ward 11), City Councilor Walter D. Bryan (West Roxbury - Ward 20), City Councilor Thomas L. McCormack (Forest Hills - Ward 19). Pressure of other duties kept Councilor Michael L. Kinsella (Charlestown - Ward 2) from being present at the first visit of the Bookmobile to the Charlestown district. Local newspapers had their photographers on hand, also, to take pictures of these visitors who had come to see the new service inaugurated.

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POINTS OF VIEW CHANGE

Recently in the Young People's Room, two boys from the fifth grade of a nearby school asked for ancient history books. When given the specified books, they demurred. Upon further questioning, it came to light that they wanted material on Ponce de Leon, Columbus, and Magelan.

****

APRIL IS "CARE MONTH"

The Committee on CARE designated April as CARE MONTH at the Boston Public Library, and requests your earnest cooperation.

Care at all? Then open your heart
April's the time to do your part.
Relief is needed to aid the stricken;
Europe will suffer if help does not quicken.

Whether you think in rhyme or prose, it is always time to think of those who depend on us -- the starving, under-privileged human remnants of a war-torn continent. Bet you haven't been thinking of them lately. Too concerned with your own weighty problems? Well, here's the remedy -- mend a few broken spirits, your own and some Europeans' too, by giving all you can to a deserving cause, CARE. Respond generously to the big April drive. Open

your hearts and your handbags. The path to our goal is a direct one, and each person is asked to do his part. Of course, the month of April denotes a concentrated effort, but we hope that contributions will not lag at any other time. Let's keep up the good work of giving gladly, and let's give it a big PUSH in April.

DORIS N. FRENCH

for Committee on CARE

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WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The War Memorial Committee, comprised of representatives of the Arnavets, the Benefit Association and the B.P.L.P.S.A. held its first meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 1950, in the staff library. The purpose of this committee is to decide upon a design and to raise money for a memorial plaque to those members of the library staff who gave their lives in World War II. Mr William DiRosario was elected chairman; Mr Louis Polishook, treasurer; and Mrs Sarah W. Flannery, secretary.

The chairman was instructed to investigate various designs and the relative costs of different types of plaques and make a preliminary report at the next meeting.

S. W. F.

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TALK BY JOSEPH F. DINNEEN

Mr Joseph F. Dinneen of the Boston Globe addressed the members and friends of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association on Friday evening, February 17, in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library. In his talk, NEWS AND NEWSPAPERS, Mr Dinneen emphasized what he referred to as his specialties -- "Crime and Politics". He mentioned his share in solving the famous Millen-Faber Case, and told several anecdotes associated with the preparation of the manuscript of his recent book, The Purple Shamrock, a biography of the Honorable James M. Curley.

Following the lecture, the incoming officers of the Association were tendered a reception in the Abbey Room. Refreshments were served by the outgoing Entertainment Committee and were up to their usual high standard.

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BPL on TV

As far as we have been able to ascertain, only one BPL staff member has to date had the interesting experience of bringing the resources of the Library to the attention of the Public via television -- Mr Thomas J. Manning, Exhibits Office.

Mr Manning is reported by those who saw him to have done an excellent job when, on March 9, he told of the "Post Office Anniversary Exhibit" currently on display in the Puvis de Chavannes Gallery. In addition to his remarks, he showed pictures and other items from the exhibit. It is significant that the expanding exhibits program should so soon after its inauguration be called to the attention of the public via television.

The work of the Library has been discussed on three other TV programs in 1950, but not by members ofthe staff. In January Mr Carl deSuze spoke on the calendar exhibition, and later on Fun in Reading for Children. The books chosen for use at that time were from the collection in the Young People's Room. The third program was a preview of a lecture-demonstration which Mr William Jewell gave as part of the Library's lecture hall program -- Painting a Watercolor.

Believing that staff members and friends will be interested in knowing of future programs on which their fellow workers are to bring the BPL to the public via TV, such events will be listed in advance on the staff bulletin board.

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MISS WILLIS HONORED

In honor of Miss Rebecca E. Willis, Branch Librarian of the Jamaica Plain Branch Library, who retires on March thirty-first, a luncheon was given in the Monaco Room of the Hotel Lenox, on March first.

The tables were decorated with sweet peas and ferns, with colorful spring flowers on the head table. Miss Willis' place was identified by a miniature old-fashioned

bouquet of her favorite flowers, violets with a red rose in the center. Her corsage was of red roses. Miss Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, and Mrs Ada Andelman, Supervisor in the Circulation Division, were given corsages of pink roses and acacia.

Mrs Andelman paid a graceful tribute to the work Miss Willis has done, and introduced Miss Guerrier who had been chosen by the committee to present to Miss Willis a purse containing a gift of money.

In addition to the Branch Librarians, Miss Guerrier and Mrs Andelman, there were also present: Miss M. Florence Cufflin, Miss Beatrice M. Flanagan, Miss Elizabeth M. Gordon, Miss Ethel M. Hazlewood, Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Miss Mary M. McDonough, Miss Edna G. Peck, and Mrs Elizabeth L. Wright.

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SHOWER FOR MISS VENEZIA

On March sixth, in the Staff Lounge, Miss Victoria M. Venezia of the Book Purchasing Department, was tendered a surprise shower. Miss Venezia is to marry Mr Frank X. Cronan on April 19, 1950, at St. Bridgid's Church in South Boston. The couple plan to live in South Boston after a wedding trip to New York.

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RECORDAK JUNIOR MICROFILMER

A four-months experiment in microphotographic charging was begun on March 13, 1950, at the Mattapan Branch Library. The Recordak Junior Microfilmer was installed a week before the beginning of the experiment and representatives of the Recordak Company spent several hours explaining the operation of the machine to the staff. The Recordak keeps a photographic record of the entire transaction of loaning a book to a borrower. The borrower's library card, which includes card number, name and address; the book card, which includes title, author, and book number; and a consecutively numbered transaction card are placed under the lens of the machine by the operator. She then presses a button to photograph these three cards. This procedure is repeated for every book that is borrowed. At the end of a week's time the exposed microfilm will be cut off, sent to the Recordak Company to be developed, then returned to the Branch Library where it will be labeled according to dates included and numbers of transaction cards included, and kept on file as a record of the week's circulation.

The transaction cards, which are numbered consecutively, are a special "McBee Keysort" product. Each card is individually punched according to an intricate system whereby a large number of cards are placed on a spindle which automatically separates and sorts them by category and number, eliminating tedious hand-sorting and endless filing. After each book is charged out, the McBee transaction card is placed with the book slip in the pocket of the book, and the borrower is asked to be careful not to lose either. When the book is returned to the Branch Library, the McBee card is removed from the pocket, and the book is ready to go back on the shelf without first having to be "slipped". The McBee cards are later sorted numerically by the ingenious automatic system already described.

When it is time to send overdue notices, the numerical sequence of McBee cards is then scanned for cards missing from the sequence. Any numbers which are found to be missing represent books which have not yet been returned. Then the roll of developed microfilm which corresponds to the proper numerical sequence is run through a reading machine similar to the newspaper microfilm reading machines at Central Library. The projected image is life-size and each picture on the film contains a complete record of the transaction so that overdue notices may be typed directly from this microfilm image.

The time saved by doing mail-notices in this direct manner should be considerable. The actual charging of books is also speeded up, as the photographing process takes only a fraction of the time heretofore required to stamp library card, book card, charging plate, and copy a six digit card number onto each book card. Also, the record is accurate, as there is no opportunity for "wrong chargings". Preparation of books is also simplified somewhat, as no charging plates are needed -- the date is stamped on the transaction card instead. The biggest time-saver, however, will probably be in the elimination of

"slipping" and the consequent immediate return of books to their places on the shelves.

In connection with the Recordak experiment, library cards are stamped "date due" instead of being stamped with the date borrowed. A steady chorus of approval from members of the public has greeted this innovation, and of course, figuring of fines when overdue books are returned will be greatly simplified.

Florence Goodman

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BRANCH LIBRARY NOTES

Codman Square

The Camp Fire Guardians of the southern area of Boston have been holding monthly meetings on Monday mornings, when the reference room is available, at the Codman Square Branch Library. Mrs Walter from the Camp Fire Headquarters in Boston wanted a place to meet other than a church where all the Guardians would feel at home. At their meeting on February 27 Miss Ross gave a brief talk on the New Manual for the Camp Fire Guardians, and told of the help and inspiration that the Camp Fire had been to some girls.

This month is the birthday of the Camp Fire Girls and there are on exhibition posters with books on fine arts and applied arts, which will be the project for the Camp Fire Girls for some months. There will also be an exhibit of handicraft work done by the Girls.

East Boston

Art and artists of East Boston is the theme of the Fifth Open House scheduled for Monday, March 20. An unusual and extensive art show representing the works of twenty-two East Boston artists will open for a month on that day. This exhibition promises to be exceptional in scope and variety of media. Paintings in oil and watercolor, pencil sketches, portraits, sculpture, wood carving, commercial art, copper and silver work will be on display. The exhibit will be arranged by Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman, distinguished artist and Keeper of Prints of the Boston Public Library.

At eight o'clock on March 20, a program of other artistic talents will take place in the lecture hall. Two gifted East Boston musicians, Mrs Mario Umana and Mr Angelo Alabiso, will each play several selections on the piano and violin. Students of Mrs Lillian Chiampa Laurano's Studio of the Dance will demonstrate other East Boston talents in ballet, tap and acrobatic dances. Mr Milton E. Lord, Director, will bring official greetings. A social hour with refreshments will be held in the Children's Room at the close of the program. New and old friends of the East Boston Branch Library are cordially invited.

Jamaica Plain

Honoring the Holy Year of 1950, there is currently on exhibition a colorful display of Italian posters and pictures that will be of interest to those who have been to Italy; to those who are going this year; and to those who hope to go sometime in the future. The brilliantly-hued posters of Rome, Florence, Venice, and Sicily are enough to make even the most home-loving of us want to rush to a travel agency for tickets to see the splendors of Italy's past and present; and the pageantry that will mark the Holy Year in Rome in 1950. Of course, there is a good selection of books to supplement the pictorial display.

Through the courtesy of the Children's Museum and a staff member, the case is filled with gaily-coloured and painted articles from Italy. A miniature wine cart filled with tiny casks is a delight to both children and adults. A tiny interior from the north of Italy would delight any little girl, as would the doll in Italian costume. There are several pieces of pottery -- an oil lamp, a wine flask, a vase. Two tiny replicas of the Swiss Guards lend a colorfully militant atmosphere to the display. These articles from the warm Mediterranean region bring cheer with their brightness and sparkle as the last of winter draws to a close.

*

Even though the temperature fell below zero, on February 20, more than forty people attended the Chinese New Year's Party given to honor Mr Jan Quen, who has made donations of money for the purchase of books for the Jamaica Plain Branch Library. Mr David Tung, Executive Director of the Chinese Y on Tyler Street, gave a most informative and fascinating talk on

on Chinese training for peace. Refreshments consisted of Jasmine tea, Chinese fortune cookies, almond cookies, and Chinese Sesame candy.

Parker Hill

An Irish exhibit, to continue throughout the month of March, includes over 70 striking photographs of that colorful country, Ireland -- its people, industries, customs, and famous places. There is also a reconstruction of the Blarney Castle, as well as linens, and china. One of the features of the exhibit is a reproduction of the famous Monogram of Christ from the Book of Kells, which is said to be one of the most beautiful of the pages.

*

During Boy Scout week, there was on display a collection of articles from Troop 17 of Roxbury, consisting of original handbooks, knots, badges, and pictures of the founders.

*

In the Children's Room is an effective exhibit of original drawings from juvenile books.

West End

On Saturday evening, February 18, two hundred invited guests attended a reception and tea in observance of Negro History Week. Cooperating with the Boston Public Library in the sponsorship of the program were the following Negro organizations: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Freedom House, Hampton Institute Alumni Association, League of Women for Community Service, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Urban League, and the Women's Service Club. Miss Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, welcomed the guests and spoke briefly on the democratic traditions and the heritage of brotherhood which for many, many years have been an integral part of this building, both as a church and a library.

Mr Herbert Jackson, President of the Malden City Council and the first member of his race to hold that position, was Chairman of the evening. He introduced the principal speaker, Miss Shirley Graham, the well-known Negro author of Your Most Humble Servant, and biographer of many other distinguished members of her race. She spoke of the role and influence of the Negro in American life and literature, with special emphasis on Phyllis Wheatley, the little Negro slave girl, who grew up to be one of the first American writers to be recognized abroad, and on Benjamin Banneker, who helped plan our national capital.

Mr John Wilson, the famous Boston Negro artist, just returned from abroad, where he studied on a fellowship, delivered an impassioned plea for good will and equality not only during Brotherhood Week, but during all the other weeks of the year.

Mrs E. Sohier Welch read a paper on the works of Meta Warrick Fuller, the eminent Negro sculptress.

A musical program, by a duet of female voices, was under the direction of Dr William A. Rhodes, the first member of his race to graduate from the New England Conservatory of Music. The artistry of the singers cast a spell over the large audience.

Guests from all fields of endeavor were present. Mr Francis B. Masterson represented the Trustees of the Boston Public Library, and Mr John J. Connolly represented the Director. In his capacity as Chief of the Circulation Division, Mr Orlando C. Davis, represented the interrelation of the Branch Libraries and the public. Among the many others present were Mr John O'Loughlin of Boston College and president-elect of the Catholig Libraries Association; Miss Dorothy Wayman, author of Bite the Bullet, and feature writer of the Boston Globe; Representative Sybil Holmes; Miss Marie D. Johnson of Liberia, who is attending College in Boston; and Dr and Mrs Tonkin of England, who are doing research work in this country.

The hostesses were members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and were assisted by the West End Branch Library Staff. The pourers for the tea and coffee hour that followed were Mrs Wayman Brown, Mrs John B. Hall, Miss Gladys Holmes, Mrs Florence LeSuer, Mrs Alfred H. Avery, Mrs Albert Salter, Mrs E. Sohier Welch, and Mrs Eva Whiting White. The evening was voted one of the most unusual and successful in the long calendar of this Branch Library's activities.

*

On Saturday afternoon, March 11, about 100 children from the local St. Joseph Parochial School and their parents met for the awarding of prizes to the winners of the essay contest, sponsored by the West End Branch Library. This being Holy Year, the topic "My Imaginary Pilgrimage to Rome" was offered as a subject to the pupils of grades 6, 7, and 8. The committee of judges consisted of Reverend Francis P. Moran, Editor of the Pilot; Mrs Mary Stack McNiff, literary critic; and Miss Dorothy Wayman, author and newspaperwoman. Mr John O'Loughlin was Chairman of the afternoon, and the awards were made by Monseigneur Edward P. Murray. Books were presented to the winners and religious medals to those receiving honorable mention. The entire program, including the refreshments, was much enjoyed by all.

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Young People's Room

The story hour in the Young People's Room has turned into a miniature U. N. with eager girls and boys from many nations being present. Our storytellers, always awake to the opportunities or trends of the moment, have capitalized on this international attendance and as a courtesy are planning their stories accordingly. Chinese New Year was appropriately celebrated with stories from that country to please our good American-Chinese citizens-in-the-making. Tales from Persia will feature largely in a coming story hour in honor of a listener who came from that country. In anticipation we can see Chhanda's dark eyes sparkle when at some not-too-distant date our storytellers will, with the magic of the spoken word, transport her and her companions to India, the land of her birth. What joy and widening of interest the Library brings to girls and boys through its gift of the storytelling!

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LATE FLASH

Engagement

Miss Rose Di Pasquale, North End Branch Library, to Mr Mario Giella, on February 14, 1950.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed

SECOND THOUGHTS ON A.L.A. DUES

Ten dollars dues for A.L.A.
It's oh so easy now to pay.
Our Lord and master helds full sway
O'er A.L.A. 'Tis Boston's day!
Our loyal aid and cash we bring;
With voices strong his praise we sing.
So, it's scrimp and save to do as we should
And A.L.A. is sure to be good!

Shakespeare 1950.

*

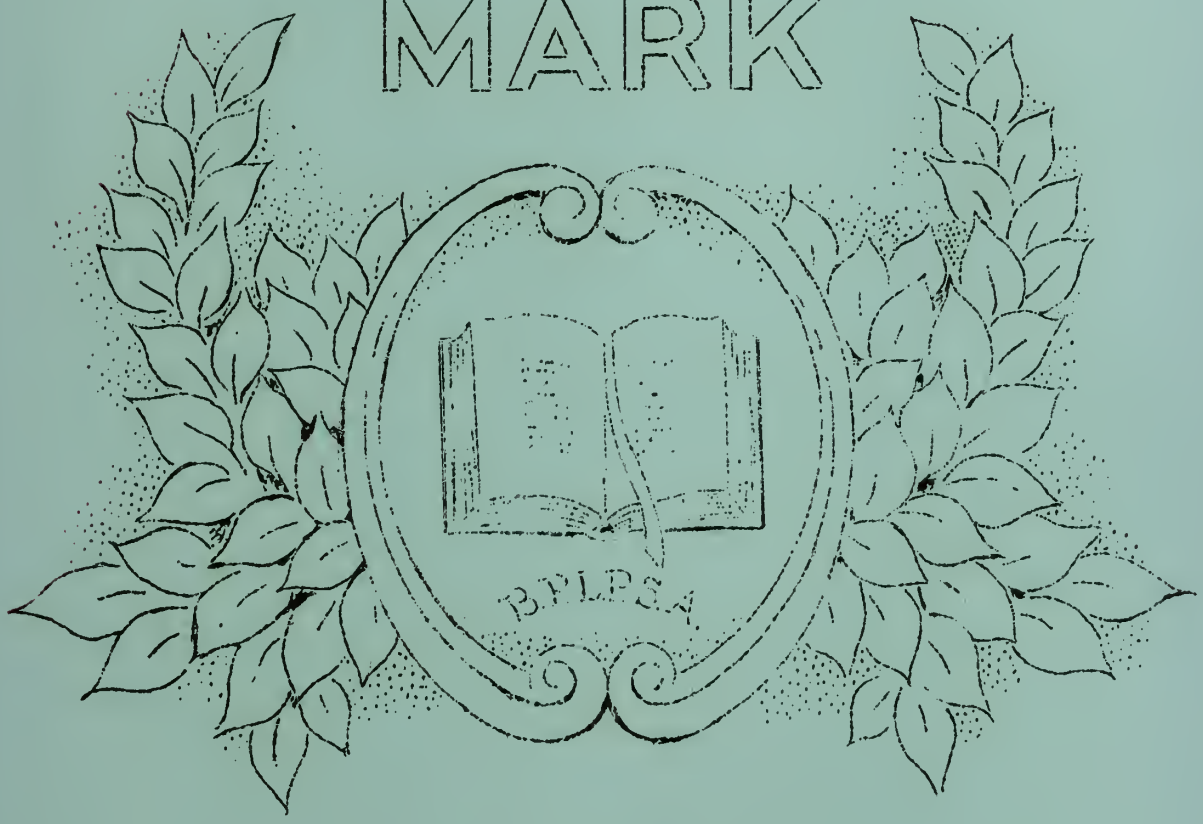
THE STACK GIRLS' TRIBUTE TO "SUGAR KANE" or KANE'S KABLE KARS

Hurrah for the Union Pacific!
Hurrah for its trains and its tracks!
But the Union Pacific
Is not so terrific
As the railroad we have in the stacks.

The books in the stacks are sent up in the cars
Of a railroad that runs night and day,
But once in a while the machin'ry breaks down
And there's all sorts of fuss and delay.
So wildly we call for the man with the tools
That we need when the railroad revolts
And Willie arrives with his wrench in his hand
And tightens our nuts and our bolts.

Hurrah for the Union Pacific!
Hurrah, for their loss is our gain,
For the Union Pacific
Had none so terrific
As our own engineer, Willie Kane.

THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume V, Number 4 April 1950

Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, M. Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

Publication date
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

The April 10 issue of Time carries an article ambiguously entitled "For proper Bostonians", about Boston's seven daily and four Sunday newspapers. The article touches on the present situation faced by the papers and their recent drastic losses in circulation and profits. It points out the use of contests as circulation builders in an attempt to win readers and to ride out of the crisis.

The presence of a number of papers in a community may not be a good in itself, but it provides room for a greater expression of opinions, for the development of ideas, and (to descend to crass materialism) it keeps so many more men employed. Some of us have seen at least two papers depart from the Boston scene. It is a serious problem for a community to have a paper forced out of business because of lack of readers, where too many papers are competing for too few readers.

Word of the plight of these newspapers does give rise to sympathetic reactions. But, librarians, be they ever so sympathetic, are aware (not in Boston alone, of course) of the aimless abuse of library material that has been witnessed in connection with contests. Librarians certainly can not close their eyes to the inconsequential use of time spent in pursuit of trivia that all have witnessed lately, considering the number of prizes available compared with the number of contestants participating. Can not, could not, some more socially valuable pastime be invented to achieve the same end?

Who in the library field is going to come up with the answer? Through books librarians help the business man, the artist, the scientist, the student. Librarians nowadays are not just custodians; they get out and sell ideas. Who will create a better "circulation mouse trap" that will build circulation not only for newspapers, but for libraries, too; that will result in libraries being used, not abused; and will enrich the individual in some way other than by the remote chance of winning a prize. Negative approaches have been all tried. From where is the positive answer to come?

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Mrs Muriel A. Watt, Print Department. Mrs Watt is working in the Print Department during the absence of Miss Muriel C. Figenbaum, First Assistant, who is on leave for study in Paris.

Miss Ellen M. Oldham, Rare Book Department.

Engagements

Mr James P. J. Gannon, Binding Department, to Miss Rita R. McCarthy. An October wedding is planned.

Miss Joyce C. Rylander, Reference Division Office, to Mr Harold M. Kelley, of Milton. Mr Kelley is a senior at Boston College.

Miss M. Patricia Morley, Circulation Division Office, to Mr Donald A. Gillis, of Roslindale. The wedding will take place August 26. Mr Gillis is a senior at Boston College.

The announcement that was in this space will appear instead in the May issue.

Weddings

Miss Ursula Von Zarsk, assistant at the

East Boston Branch Library, was married to Mr Robert J. Oxley on Friday, March 31, at eight o'clock at the Leyden Street Congregational Church in Brookline. Miss Von Zarsk wore a long, blue satin ankle-length dress and a little hat with a waist-length veil and carried a white orchid. Only the immediate family attended the ceremony.

In honor of Mrs Oxley, the staff held a surprise party at the Branch Library on Friday, April 14. After a simple luncheon, a wedding gift of silver was presented. Toasts and a prophecy in book-titles added gaiety to a happy occasion.

Babies

Mr and Mrs Louis Polishook, Science and Technology Department (Patent Room) have announced the birth of a daughter, Nancy Ellen, on March 21, 1950.

Retirements

Miss Rebecca E. Willis, Branch Librarian, Jamaica Plain Branch Library, effective March 31, 1950.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Mr and Mrs James Yauney, of St. Johnsville, New York, have announced the birth of a son, Alan James, on March 17, 1950. Mrs Yauney is the former Edna Quinn of the Office of Records, Files, and Statistics.

*

Mr and Mrs Thomas Canavan have announced the birth of a son, Thomas Richard, on March 13, 1950. Mrs Canavan is the former Mary Hart of the Circulation Division Office.

*

We are happy to report that Mr William J. Ennis is steadily improving after his recent hospitalization. He is now at 20 Dunster Road, Everett 49.

*

Miss Florence Adelson, formerly of East Boston Branch Library, and Mr Allen Angoff, formerly of the Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division, were married on March 30, 1950, in Montclair, New Jersey. The Angoffs will make their home in New York City where Mr Angoff is managing editor of the magazine, "Tomorrow". Mrs Angoff is a Branch Librarian in the Montclair Public Library System.

*

On Tuesday evening, March 21, Mrs Margaret Carr Lynch and Mrs Carolyn Wallace Myers (former members of the Director's Office) were co-hostesses at a miscellaneous shower in the latter's home, in honor of Miss Evelyn F. Caswell, formerly of the Science and Technology Department, now Head of Guided Missiles Library, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Among the thirty or more friends who attended were several B.P.L. members and many B.P.L. Alumnae who enjoyed much reminiscing as well as admiring the many beautiful gifts the bride-to-be received.

Pictures were taken of the beautifully decorated table with all the delicacies, and of the prospective bride and groom cutting the cake prepared especially for the occasion.

Miss Caswell is to be married on Saturday, April 22, to Mr John M. Carroll, Deputy Supervisor in the Reference Division, and Chief of the General Reference Department.

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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Miss Anne O'Brien, a part-time assistant at the Allston Branch Library and a junior at Mt. St. Joseph Academy, won first prize in the Boston Advertising Club's Essay Contest, for her essay entitled "America Without Advertising". She was presented with a check for $100.00 on April 4, by the board, at the Hotel Statler.

*

Miss Eileen McMahon, part-time assistant at the Parker Hill Branch Library, won an honorable mention and scroll in an essay contest sponsored by the Advertising Club of Boston. She is a senior at Girls' Latin School.

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BEST WISHES FOR SPEEDY RECOVERIES TO

Mr William McGowan, Book Stack Service, 15 Burwell Road, West Roxbury 32

Miss Evelyn Levy, Brighton Branch Library, 51 Verndale Street, Brookline 46

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ARTICLES BY STAFF MEMBERS

The spring issues of three scholarly magazines have contributions by Mr Zoltan Haraszti, Keeper of Rare Books , and Editor of Publications:

In The William and Mary Quarterly, issued by the Institute of Early American History and Culture, "John Adams Flays a Philosophe," an article extending to 32 printed pages.

In The Isis, the quarterly journal of the History of Science Society, "John Adams on Franklin's Iron Points".

In The New England Quarterly, a review of Sidney H. Ditzion's Arsenals of a Democratic Culture, "a social history of the American public library movement in New England and the Middle States from 1850 to 1900".

*

In the March 15, 1950, issue of the Library Journal there appears an article by Mr Eamon McDonough, General Reference Department, "Men Librarians". This is an answer to a previous article by Mr Ralph Munn.

*

In the April issue of Woman's Day, published by The A & P Company, there appeared an article entitled, "A Few Notes on Teaching That Wasn't", by Miss Nancy J. Dickson, Book Selection Department, Circulation Division.

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SAVE THESE DATES

April 21

A variety of dances, from the Virginia Reel to the Portland Fancy, will be offered at the Country Dance, sponsored by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association, to be held Friday, April 21, at 8:30 in the Lecture Hall. An expert caller will announce and teach the steps, and records will supply appropriate music. The admission, 60 cents per person, includes tax and refreshments. Mrs Margaret Butler, chairman of the able committee in charge of the dance, advises all who come to wear rubber-soled shoes and to prepare for an evening of active fun.

April 28

The Program Committee has arranged to have Mr Walter Powers, president of the Boston Bar Association, tell of the unusual and highly unconventional way in which he and his wife saw England last summer, Down the Thames in a Kayak. Mr Powers is a prominent Boston resident and attorney, and an excellent speaker. He was a member of the Examining Committee of the Boston Public Library in 1947-48. This event will take place on Friday evening, April 28, at 8:30 in the Lecture Hall of the Library.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

With the flower-and-fruit-gardens which are passing for ladies' hats this spring, all purchased and paid for (we hope), and with all the men bedecked in those loose-leaves-from-sketch-books which are camouflaging as the tie that must accompany the new spring suit, maybe we can settle down to the business of everyday existence once again, — a sort of breathing spell before the vacation period is here to disrupt our ordered lives.

The Entertainment and Program Committees have been busy planning events so that we will not be bored during this waiting period. The Country Dance -- April 21 -- and the lecture by Mr Powers -- April 28 -- should be events of real interest. The Program and Entertainment Committees are working hard to provide pleasant evenings for us all. Plan to come and bring your friends. Everyone is cordially welcome to share with us these two major events of the year.

*

BPLPSA Pops night has now become a very pleasant annual event. The Entertainment Committee reports that reservations have been made for Association members and their friends on Saturday evening, July 1. Details later.

*

Mr Frank Bruno, Chairman of the Special Sports Committee reports that one hundred tickets have been tentatively reserved for the Red Sox-Cleveland night game on June 1, 1950. A notice will be sent as to purchase of tickets, etc., as soon as verification is received.

*

There are also rumors regarding another Moonlight Sail sometime this late spring or summer. Details at a later date.

*

It is with real pleasure and gratitude that the President of the BPLPSA is able to announce, at this time, the anonymous gift of ten dollars ($10.00) to the Association Treasury. This gift was made by an Association member who is of the opinion that the Association "is playing a vital role in the life of the Library and that it needs the support of all its members in every way possible". For this kind thought so tangibly expressed we are most grateful.

*

The following letter sent to the Director from the President of the Association is self-explanatory, as is his answer.

March 29, 1950

Mr Milton E. Lord, Director
Boston Public Library

My dear Mr Lord:

In session on March 28, 1950, the Executive Board of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association instructed me to request that you express to the Trustees of the Boston Public Library the sincere appreciation of the Association for the advancement of the sum of two hundred dollars ($200.00) made by the Trustees as an aid in meeting the financial obligations of the annual institute which is one phase of the In-Service-Training Program of the Association.

Since the expenses of the Institute for the year 1949 exceeded the income only by eighty-two cents, it was voted by the Executive Board to refund to the Trustees the two hundred dollars ($200.00) which they so graciously allowed to the Association. This matter had been discussed at previous meetings of the Executive Board, but it had been decided to await developments regarding the printing of the Institute proceedings before making any restitution to the Trustees.

However, a late report from Mrs Flannery, Chairman of the Institute Committee, reveals that one session is missing from the tape recordings, due to mechanical difficulties. To date it has not been possible to obtain a written record of the speeches for that session. Therefore it was decided to postpone the printing or proceedings until the record could be obtained in its entirety. Since there is a strong element of uncertainty regarding the possibility of ever receiving the written reports from the speakers, it was decided to refund the money to the Trustees at this time, rather than wait further possible developments in regard to the printing of Institute proceedings.

Please extend to the Trustees our sincere thanks for their support of the Association-sponsored In-Service-Training program. We appreciate their fine spirit of cooperation.

Very truly yours,

(signed) EDNA G. PECK

President
Boston Public Library
Professional Staff Association

11 April 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

I have your letter of March 29, 1950 in which you indicate on behalf of the Executive Board of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association the sincere appreciation of the Association

for the advance of the sum of $200 which the Trustees had made as an aid in meeting the financial obligations of the annual Institute which was conducted in 1949 in connection with the In-Service Training Program of the Association.

The vote of the Executive Board of the Association to return to the Trustees the advance of $200 because of the fact that the income from the Institute exceeded the expenses incurred will be brought to the attention of the Trustees of the Library at their next meeting.

I know that the Trustees will be pleased that the Institute of 1949 was able to carry itself without additional aid from outside of the Association. This is a development of great significance, upon which the Association is to be congratulated.

May I add my own personal word of pleasure and satisfaction in so fine an activity as this has been on the part of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association?

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD

Director

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Mr Aaron Starr, Chairman of the Concessions Committee, reports that bids have been received for kitchen equipment and steps are being taken to purchase and install the necessary equipment.

*

Mr Samuel Green, who has been so helpful in taking care of candy orders for the staff, reports that the Easter sales of candy amounted to 348 pounds, selling for $329.79. This should keep us sweetened up for quite some time.

*

As an affiliated group of SORT, it is the privilege of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association to submit nominations for the Steering Committee ballot for the coming year. Invitations have been sent to the following to serve in this capacity. Miss Julia Muse, Public Library Staff Association, Atlanta, Georgia; Mr Wayne Campbell, Penn State College Library Staff Association; Miss Katherine Laich, Los Angeles Public Library Staff Association; Miss Dorothy Heiderstadt, President, Kansas City Public Library Staff Association, and Miss Charlotte Ryan, President, San Antonio Public Librarian Council.

*

The special committee appointed to steer the legislation regarding reimbursement of pay lost through theft, reports that the bill appeared before the Joint Standing Committee on Municipal Finance of the General Court of the Commonwealth on Monday, March 31, 1950. At that time Mr William H. Kerr of the Law Department of the City of Boston and Mr Sydney Weinberg representing the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association and the Boston Public Library Benefit Association, Inc. appeared in support of the bill. There was no opposition. The Committee will report favorably on the bill which is now scheduled to go on the floor of both houses of the General Court for engrossment. After approval by the Legislature it will be referred back to the City Council of Boston for acceptance. Accord- to this report, if all goes well, the day should not be too far distant when the unfortunate people who lost their pay will be reimbursed.

E. G. P.

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WE NOTE WITH INTEREST

That the Trustees have again offered four scholarships of $100 each for study in library schools; and that they have increased the number of grants toward expenses of attendance at the ALA meeting in July to 10, making them $50 each rather than $100 as in previous years. We are sure that these grants will stimulate an interest in attendance at the annual conference and that we will have some enthusiastic reports for inclusion in the August issue of The Question Mark.

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MISS FIGENBAUM AT BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE

The Print Department shares with us this letter received from Miss Muriel Figenbaum who is on leave of absence.

11 Rue de l'Arcade
Paris 8, France
Feb. 28, 1950

Dear Friends,

I want to tell you something about Paris, something about my trip, and what I am doing, but there is so much to tell that I hardly know where to start.

Perhaps, since the Bibliotheque Nationale is a known point, it may be well to start there, although I will admit that I have been other places than the "B.N." of the "Bib. Nat.", the two familiar terms to all American students here. As I was warned by Mr Lord to expect a library quite different from ours, I was not too surprised to find what I did.

The library rises abruptly from the sidewalk of the narrow Rue de Richelieu. It is like all European buildings, built around a courtyard which is really just an entrance way in this case. Attached to the building and also on the other side of the street are large signs saying "Bibliotheque. Silence", although this seems to make no difference tothe famous Paris taxi cabs.

Fortunately I was expected - in fact Mr Adhemar had called before the boat had even landed to see if I had arrived, and then got in contact with me the very day I arrived in Paris. He suggested that I come in on Monday - and by Monday I just barely had my land legs back again. He and his assistants were very kind to me and showed me the Cabinet des Estampes and a bit about how things were done. It was rather a strain, I must admit, for all of my instructions were given in French.

There are certain requisites for the people who wish to use the B.N. French students must have their degrees and American students must have proper credentials. The forms must be filled out with all your background, degrees and what you are doing - mine was a little different because of the previous negotiations between the two libraries, and the form I filled out was really a B.N. personnel form - two photographs required! One of these is attached to your carte de lecteur which must be shown everytime you enter one of the study rooms.

As for the Cabinet des Estampes - I show my card and sign a book everytime I go in. All of the books and prints I ask for are also listed by my name. It seems quite a simple system, but then they have a very large staff to take care of all the routine work. As this will probably be read by more than just the Print Department I will not tell all the little details of their system with the prints - except that they are very weak in the fields other than French.

Another thing which particularly impresses me every time I enter the library are the lines of people waiting for seats in the "Salle de Travail." Especially in mid-morning or mid-afternoons after the early comers are all settled. I don't see how they have the patience to wait, because once a student is there he stays all day it seems - he is even allowed to go out to lunch and his seat is held for him until 2:30.

Another department which I hope to visit again is that of Medals. Here is really a small museum within the library where there are wonderful collections of coins, medals, ancient seals and cameos. It is so valuable that the whole of the exhibition room is separated from the rest of the building by a large grill, almost like an open ironwork wall. To enter one rings a bell and the guardian releases the door from his desk (like a bank vault), while the door is open a bell rings and as soon as the door is shut and locked again the bell stops. This same procedure goes on when one leaves the room.

I was also shown the photography rooms, which were the last word in photography for color, for enlarging and various other activities. It was an amateur's dream and a professional's reality - at least in that one place - I have never seen anything like it. The two men who were working there were considered the experts and anything, no matter how rare, was safe in their hands.

The same was true of their bindery, which was the "atelier de reliure." Actually their ordinary book binding was done outside the library, but this was for the special work. I saw women working with rare and valuable manuscripts, mounting them on sheets of paper - mounting them so

that both sides of the page could be read. We have prints mounted that way, but I really thought it was a lost art. These pages were also filled with worm holes and each hole was carefully patched with the same paper. Other rare items were being mounted on thin muslin. Certain books whose bindings were in need of repair were being fixed and restored. They have a collection of the stamps for the gold decoration so that they can duplicate with the very same stamp used hundreds of years ago. The whole atelier was completely modern with good fluorescent lighting, wonderful tile sinks for soaking paper and everyone seemed to be very interested in this work. I was told that the department was very proud of its work and I can easily see why they would be.

I would like to say a little of my first impressions of Paris - and then perhaps another time I can tell you with more detail what it is like. First of all, although I had been told that France is always the first country to recover from a war, I somehow expected to see a lack of the luxury of Paris. But it is all here, all the luxury that must have existed before, but no one can afford it. I can not quote figures of an average French salary but I am sure that it is less than ours, but the living expenses are at least as high, if not higher. Of course living in a hotel, no matter how small, and eating in restaurants is bound to be expensive anywhere.

Restaurant meals seem about the same price as ours from $1.00 up, but of course the food is usually superb and beautifully served in even the smallest place. I walked wistfully past Pruniers' the other day - and will probably sooner or later relinquish the 1000 francs that their suggested menu cost.

The shop windows are filled with things and in the evening the streets are crowded with people just walking around and window shopping. Everyone window shops, but try as I might I can't find a French word that is the equivalent of our "window-shop" not even from the French people. There are many beautiful things, but again the prices are prohibitive to a Frenchman, and also to the average American who worked hard to get as far as Paris.

The people in the streets, the women particularly, are very shabby and it is only the wealthy and the models who have the chic that we expect of Paris. As far as clothes are concerned most noticeable is the shortness of the skirts, and extreme casualness of dress - no one wears a hat! And the girls don't wear kerchiefs either, and the weather is really cold and damp, and I need either a hat or a kerchief just to keep warm. Everyone wears big heavy shoes somewhat like stadium boots, but of course, without the extra shoes, and they all wear socks over their stockings. It is very cold around the floors and also when walking on the street the dampness goes right up through the usual sole of a shoe. I feel very much like a Parisian in my wool-lined boots which came from Thayer-MacNeils. Everyone wears them here.

Paris, the city of Light, is not very bright even now - I think they must save electricity. The buildings all have floodlights around, but they are not in use except for special occasions. The automobiles do not use light at night either (there are street lights) - and even when an auto approaches a crossing the lights are blinked and that is all. I have not yet decided whether this is a warning to the pedestrian and whatever car might be coming the other way, or whether it is to enable the driver to see what is coming. I'm inclined to think that it is a warning to get out of the way, because the cars never slow up. In the daytime at a crossing, they don't slow up either, they just blow their horns at the corner and keep on going.

The French people that I have met, outside of the educated people of the library and the students, are amazed to think that an American such as myself knew the various monuments of Paris and could recognize them the first time - and to think that I had learned all about these things in school - perhaps more so because of the art history importance. It is also quite a shock to them that Boston is not a city of skyscrapers. My greatest problem with this particular French family was in explaining who Paul Revere was, and describing how Americans eat corn on the cob. That was something they asked me about too.

Paris weather is also a problem. The first weekend - that of February 18th, was like spring - a suit was all one needed and it was such a wonderful way to start my stay. Then it turned cold and raw again. Even on the warm weekend Paris

reminded me of San Francisco - it seemed almost noon till the sun could make up its mind what to do. Last Sunday, Feb. 26th - we had bitter cold weather, rain, snow, hail, sunshine and thunder and lightening, - all in one day. Just like New England. I have been surprised that the library has been so well heated, although this past week it has been rather frigid, but on the whole it is not as bad as I expected. Probably because people know that winter can't last much longer and they don't have to save their coal so much as they did in December or January.

In spite of the cold, there are flowers everywhere - the famous stalls by the Madeleine tempt one everyday, and no home is without its flowering plants or cut flowers. At night everyone seems to be buying flowers to take home. It's just wonderful. I will stop on this most beautiful of all subjects and will try to write you all again soon.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) MURIEL C. FIGENBAUM

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OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

Organization, administration, and management of the Los Angeles Public Library. Bureau of Budget and Efficiency, in consultation with Lowell Martin. 1949. Vol. IV Extension service for adults.

Recommendations for establishing the library extension division upon a more effective administrative foundation through a regional branch system. This plan envisions a decentralization of present extension service from the Central Library to seven regional centers which would supply specialized services to the smaller branches and stations in their districts. (For notes on other volumes in this survey see the February, 1950 issue of The Question Mark.)

Color and adaptability. Katherine Laich. Wilson Library Bulletin, March, 1950. pp. 500-501.

This article is of interest for the description it gives of the recently opened, streamlined, San Pedro Library (California) which will eventually be the regional headquarters of one of the seven geographic divisions recommended in the survey listed above. It will serve as a model for subsequent regional branches to be established.

How to make the library a dynamic force for social action. Edward L. Bernays. Wilson Library Bulletin, March, 1950. pp. 489-494.

A counsel on public relations and professor of public relations at New York University takes issue with Dean Berelson's conclusions in the Public Library Inquiry Report. "The Library's Public", that under present conditions the library's clientele must remain small. Professor Bernays argues that the American public and American democracy can best be served not be restricting the library's services to a small elite, but rather by expanding its services so that more people will use it.

New York State aid passed on March 2. Charles F. Gosnell. Library Journal, April 1, 1950. pp. 547-548.

A summary of the background and provisions of New York's three million dollar state aid for public libraries appropriation bill which was passed on March 2, culminating five years of study and research on the problem.

Library demonstration bill defeated in the House. Library Journal, April 1, 1950. p. 348.

A report on the debate and voting on the Library Demonstration Bill which was defeated by three votes.

In-Service Training

Training the staff to understand library problems. May Virginia Valencik. Wilson Library Bulletin, April, 1950. pp. 596-598.

Training the staff in processes. Phyllis Osteen. Wilson Library Bulletin, April 1, 1950. pp. 598-601.

Training the staff for professional participation. Thomas L. Mayer. Wilson Library Bulletin, April 1, 1950. pp. 601-602.

Training the staff in community participation. Violet F. Myer. Wilson Library Bulletin, April 1, 1950. pp. 603-604.

Papers on various effective methods and techniques of in-service training presented in a forum sponsored by the Staff Organizations Round Table at the Middle Atlantic States Regional A.L.A. Conference in October, 1949.

Service rating - a tool of supervision. Wallace B. Hoffman. Wilson Library Bulletin, April 1, 1950. pp. 605-607.

Discusses a method of service rating based on position classification which the author believes answers the principal objection to a general service rating that it is subjective and therefore results in unfairness and injustice.

L. S. M.

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MISS WILLIS RETIRES

Miss Rebecca E. Willis, whose retirement as Branch Librarian at Jamaica Plain Branch Library, became effective at the close of the day, Friday, March thirty-first, had completed more than forty-six years of service in the Boston Public Library. After having worked in several other branch libraries, as First Assistant since 1911, Miss Willis was appointed Branch Librarian at Jamaica Plain Branch Library in 1937, succeeding Miss Katie F. Albert.

Miss Willis was always a conscientious worker and was ever mindful of the interests of those who worked with her. The new period of freedom from scheduled hours of work will give her time to enjoy to a fuller degree her two hobbies -- travel and gardening.

*

Miss Rebecca E. Willis was honored at luncheon on March twenty-fifth, at the Red Coach Grill. The festive affair was attended by her staff, former colleagues, and friends of the library in Jamaica Plain. Mrs Green, Jamaica Plain Branch Library, presented Miss Willis with a gold lapel watch decorated with seed pearls, a gift from the guests in recognition of her many years of faithful and loyal service to the Library and to the community. Miss Helen Dennis and Miss Susan Fitz, Jamaica Plain friends, both read poems of their own composition, on the joys of retirement. Miss Bessie L. Doherty, Branch Issue Department, told a humorous and appropriate story. Two popular friends of the Branch Library, Patrolmen William Dolan and Francis Dennehy of Station 13, provided some enthusiastically received vocal entertainment in their own inimitable manner. They later led the guests in informal singing. The particularly charming favors and place cards were designed and made by Miss Clara Dennis. The color motif of pink sweet peas, carnations, and blue bachelor buttons was also carried out in the table decorations. A delightful afternoon was spent in saying "Thank You" to Miss Willis for her unfailing service throughout the years.

*

On March sixteenth, the situation was reversed. Miss Willis surprised her staff with a party! "Santa Willis" brought prettily wrapped presents for everyone, and, of course, there was food to make everything perfect. If the maxim "We get what we give" still works, Miss Willis can look forward to a lot of happiness.

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RUMORS OF TRAVELS

It is rumored that many members of the Boston Public Library Staff are planning interesting trips for their summer vacations. It is a bit early to wish them Bon Voyage, but the Publications Committee hopes that information will be sent for inclusion in the June issue.

****

SHOWER FOR MISS KUSHNER

On March 30, in the Staff Lounge, Miss Sarah Kushner of the Book Stack Service, was tendered a surprise shower. Miss Kushner is to marry Mr George Marshall on Sunday evening, April 16. The couple plan to live in Dorchester, after a wedding trip in upper state New York.

****

RECEIVED AT A BRANCH LIBRARY

A Branch Librarian sent in the following, with this comment: "Is this a sample of what our public thinks of us?"

"To the Librarians

Girls? take a good gander at what's inside!!!!!!!!!!!! How to be a librarian

in one easy lesson:

1. Be understanding
2. Listen to both sides of a story
3. Don't eliminate the wrong person
4. Don't show favoratism
5. DON'T BE A CRAB

Take it from one who knows! Follow this and you'll have a much better library."

****

SOUTH BOSTON BRANCH LIBRARY TO REOPEN IN MAY

The new quarters for our South Boston Branch Library (386-388 West Broadway) are almost ready for occupancy. The Library's workmen are now putting on the finishing touches -- installing necessary book shelving, painting, etc., and this branch library should reopen sometime in early May.

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GROUND TO BE BROKEN FOR NEW BRANCH LIBRARY

The John F. Griffin Company, 238 Main Street, Cambridge, with a figure of $57,300., was the lowest bidder in the competitive bidding for the work of erecting and completing a new branch library building on Adams Street in Dorchester and has been awarded the contract for this work. Ground is to be broken on Tuesday, April 18. At the ceremonies on that day will be the President of the Board of Trustees, the Director of the Library, the Councilor from the District, and the Architect, Mr Richard Shaw.

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NOTICE OF SURPLUS!

A large stock of A.L.A. membership application forms is awaiting distribution to interested and professionally-minded members of the B.P.L. staff. The American Library Association is well worth your support, and is in effect dependent upon it for continued valuable assistance to all members of the library profession. Won't you complete your application for membership now, and don't forget that you may apply for a $50. grant if you are planning to attend the A.L.A. Conference in Cleveland.

Ruth Cannell
Boston Representative

A.L.A. Membership Committee

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BPL ON TV -- AGAIN! AND AGAIN!

Arrangements have been completed for the appearance on television of two more staff members who will bring to the attention of the public two widely divergent aspects of library service in the Boston Public Library.

On Friday, April 14, at 12 n., on WNAC-TV, Channel 7, (Louise Morgan's Shopping Vues), Mrs Irene Tuttle, Branch Librarian in Charge of the Bookmobile, will tell of this recently inaugurated service which is proving to be a definitely successful unit in the expansion program.

Tuesday, April 18, at 4:15 p.m. on WBZ-TV, Channel 4, (the Mildred Carlson at Home show), Miss Mildred R. Adelson, Assistant at Jamaica Plain Branch Library, will speak on an exhibition, Breads of Many Nations, which has been shown at many branch libraries, and which never fails to create interest as it is viewed by library patrons from many countries. It is an exhibition which helps to foster the "One World" idea, and at the same time helps to advertise our cook books, and books on related subjects.

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BRANCH NOTES

Allston

Miss Patricia Wilson has uncovered a new use for the wicker baskets used to carry shellac, etc., to branch libraries. She made an attractive Easter display camouflaging one of these baskets with cellophane and crepe paper, and filling it with books. The theme song for this April exhibit was: "A-tisket, A-tasket
Where's Mr O'Reilly's basket?"
(We guess that Mr O'Reilly is the driver who delivers said baskets to Allston Branch Library!)

City Point

On Friday, March 31, 1950, Mrs Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom was entertained at a dinner in the Terrace Room at the Hotel Statler. Her hostesses were the Misses Catherine P. Loughman, Helen Murphy, and Helen Brennan, all fellow staff members. Mrs Ekstrom was presented with a lovely orchid. The party was in honor of Mrs Ekstrom's recent marriage.

East Boston

The Fifth Open House was a memorable and a happy event due to the many community talents contributed by the neighborhood. The fifty-seven works by twenty-six local artists arranged in the Adult Room by Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman attracted much interest. Wood sculpture, paintings in water-color and oils, charcoals, pen and ink drawings, pencil sketches, wood carving, a hooked rug, and copper work represented a wide variety of artistic media. While several exhibitors are professional artists, many are art students and others are amateurs who use art as a recreational hobby.

In the Lecture Hall at eight o'clock, a program of dancing and music by other East Boston artists attracted a capacity audience. From the violin solos by Mr Angelo Alibiso of the Springfield Orchestra to the piano selections of Mrs Anne Umana, wife of Representative Umana, the program was varied and representative of this gifted district. Miss Matilda Cerulli, student at Teachers College, and Mr Remo Turilli sang songs in English and Italian. The eight dances by the students of the Studio of the Dance were other popular numbers on the program.

At the close of the program punch and cookies were served in the Children's Room. Miss Catherine E. Flannery, Branch Librarian at Orient Heights Branch Library and Mrs Geraldine Altman, Branch Librarian at Jeffries Point Branch Library, presided at the punch bowls. Mr Milton E. Lord, Director, Mr Francis B. Masterson, Trustee, Mrs Ada A. Andelman, Supervisor, and Miss Edna G. Peck, Chief of the Book Selection Department, were honored guests.

Jamaica Plain

The Italian exhibit borrowed from the Children's Museum has been replaced by a collection of Italian articles borrowed from friends of the Branch Library and staff members.

Miss Edith Lally has lent her large and beautiful Della Robbia plaque of St. Anthony of Padua.

Mrs Evelyn Green, Mrs Margaret Haverty, and Miss Helen Donovan, staff members, have contributed articles that add interest and color to the display. There are several pieces of pottery of a gay and colorful design; coral necklaces; intricate mosaic pins and bracelets; tooled leather and Florentine jewel boxes; and silver coffee spoons, all depicting daily living in Italian life. A jointed wooden Pinnocchio, to delight a child or lover of the famous "wooden-head", stands stiffly at attention. Portraying the religious side of Italian life and honoring the Holy Year are an inlaid triptych, a Florentine one, and an exquisitely carved Madonna. These devotional objects are painstakingly executed and adorned.

Parker Hill

Ukrainian Handicraft is the feature of an Easter display. It was lent through the courtesy of Reverend Gregory Tom of the Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church. The exhibit consists of exquisite hand-painted eggs, a wooden cross inlaid with beads and various colored woods making a very pretty pattern, embroidery on tablecloths, napkins, etc. There are also small wooden chests with colored beads and cut glass woven in intricate design. It is a very unusual display.

*

The artistic poster work done at this branch library has received many favorable comments from the public, who look forward to each new one. Miss Isabel Martino, Unclassified Assistant, is responsible for this work.

South End

There is on exhibit a gift of miniature toys from the boys and girls of the Benjamin Franklin Library of Mexico City. These toys, handmade and in many beautiful colors, are copies of tables, chairs, vases, baskets, etc., used by the Mexican people. They were collected by the children as representative of the toys of the poor children of Mexico. When Miss Eva Anttonen, Children's Librarian of the Benjamin Franklin Library, sent us the toys,

she enclosed a note which read in part, "Please accept the little collection as a token of friendship from many of our children here to the South End children."

This is the latest in a series of exchanges made by the children of the South End Branch Library, under the supervision of Miss Martha Engler, Children's Librarian, and the children of the Benjamin Franklin Library of Mexico City.

West End

The celebration of Jewish History Week from April 16-22 will again underscore the valuable offerings of the Judaica collection of literature and art. Facsimiles of important documents in American Jewish History, such as George Washington's letters to the Touro Congregation of Newport, will be featured. Also on exhibit will be reproductions of the famous silhouettes of early American Jews by Hannah London, Jewish artist. Several valuable monographs on American Jewish History by Lee M. Friedman, President of the American Jewish Historical Society and a Trustee of the Boston Public Library, are important items of the exhibit. New bibliographies of prose, verse, plays, famous people, children's books and audio-visual materials relating to American Jewish History will also be on display.

*

A Labor exhibit is being featured during the month of April in order to attract interest to the Scholarship Award Contest sponsored by the Education Committee of the State Federation of Labor. Oil paintings, old photographs, and out-of-date books have been lent through the courtesy of Miss Margaret Wiesman, of the Office of the Consumer's League of Massachusetts, and Miss Ethel Fair, of the sponsoring Education Committee. Books from the suggested reading list issued by the Division of Public Libraries of the State Dept. of Education, as well as supplementary titles, are available for circulation.

*

The Children's Room has attracted an unusual number of visitors, both adult and juvenile, during April because of an exhibition of arts and crafts by the "Thursday Afternoon Painting Club" from the Elizabeth Peabody House. This group consists of several 10-year-old children of the West End who are interested in experimenting with all forms of art expression, including painting, drawing from life, carving in plaster, clay modelling, and pastels. Each child expresses his own feeling in his work, and the result reaches far beyond a "pretty" picture or piece of sculpture. These children are real artists because they do not simply try to copy objects as they are, but use their imagination in creating pieces of work which hold a great deal of emotion and feeling for themselves and for those who view the results. It will be interesting to watch this group develop and to see what the future holds for its members.

West Roxbury

If there is anyone unfamiliar with the poetry of Emily Dickinson, his curiosity would have been aroused if he had attended the lecture on the evening of April 10. Mrs Harold Greene Arnold, editor of the Emily Dickinson Year Book and an authority on the subject, delightfully presented the high lights of the poet's life with especial emphasis on her character and personality. She stressed particularly the fact that her life of retirement helped to develop that genius which made her the leading American poet.

After the lecture, which was well attended by admirers of Emily Dickinson and those who wished to know more about her, the audience was invited to view the exhibit which was arranged by Mrs Arnold. Pictures of the Dickinson home in Amherst, the family, letters, and rare manuscripts of great value are on display during the month of April. Three of the original manuscripts have been borrowed from the Galatea Collection in the Rare Book Department.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-fiction

American Library Association
Membership directory, 1949
Chicago, 1949

American Library Association. Audio-Visual Board
The use of television by the public library
Chicago, 1949
Illinois Library Association
Planning school library quarters
Chicago, ALA. 1950
Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Groups
Public library service to labor groups
Chicago, ALA, 1950
Joint Committee of the American Library Association, National Education Association and National Council of Teachers of English
A basic book collection for high schools. 5th ed.
Chicago, ALA, 1950
Lyle, Guy R.
The administration of the college library
New York, H. W. Wilson, 1949
Pierce, Watson O'D.
Work measurement in public libraries
New York, Social Science Research Council, 1949
Rider, Fremont
Compact book storage
New York, Hadham Press, 1949

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SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

A VERSE FOR THE NURSE

Mrs Wollent

Should you be the victim of fever or gout,
You're getting too thin or you're getting too stout,
Your teeth are a wreck and your hair's falling out
See Mrs Wollent.

If you start forgetting the people you know,
Your blood-pressure's high and your temperature's low
Or daily you're crippled by cramps in your toe,
See Mrs Wollent.

Yes, go to her office whenever you're ill
She'll bake you and swab you and give you a pill
And you can relax 'cause Mayor Hynes pays the bill -
See Mrs Wollent.

The healthiest people are working right here
For few reach the hospital, fewer the bier,
So see that you all to her counsel adhere
When you see Mrs Wollent.

*

ODE TO THE MAN IN THE VESTIBULE

O Henry Vane it gives me pain
To see you there so still,
When all of us librarians
Can go about at will.

You have no hour for your lunch
Nor do you have relief.
Existence such as this to me
Is horror past belief.

You're always there on holidays
You get no pay for Sundays
And still I find you're standing there
When I come late on Mondays.

But though you stand, I don't know why
I'll look it up in Hist'ry
And if I don't find out, I guess
It will remain a myst'ry.

****

APRIL IS CARE MONTH

Dear Friends;

May I inform you that the CARE package which you consigned to General Relief has been delivered to a worthy and needy recipient in Berlin Germany.

When you receive your receipt you will note that it bears the signature of the person whose name and circumstances are given beneath my signature. This selection was made by CARE upon the recommendation of one or more of our Member Agencies of the city of Berlin.

Where possible the recipient will send a note expressing his thanks. In circumstances where he is unable to do so, we take this means to convey his heartfelt thanks.

Please be sure that your generous action has been followed through in exact detail by this Mission and that we are conscious, almost beyond expression, of the great good that you have done.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) D. A. OSTRANDER
Director, CARE MISSION
Lentzeallee 109
Berlin-Germany

Below are listed the names of the recipients included in Mr Ostrander's letter. Each received one package.

Frau Irmgard Schlicht, Berlin SW, Tempelhofer Ufer 20
Widow with three children.

Frl. Marie Wulle, Berlin-Neukoelln, Stuttgarte Platz, 20 Volkschule
Lives in the Russian sector, receives only 10% of salary in westmark, is supporting her mother.

Frau Christel Freygang, Berlin-Zehlendorf, Nieritzweg 2
Widow with two children.

Frau Liesselotte Duske, Berlin-Zehlendorf, Claszeile 18
Widow with children.

Gisela Muenker, Berlin-Schoeneberg, Kleist Str. 34
Undernourished, very poor parents.

Christa Lange, Berlin-Neukoelln, Walte Str. 1-3
Four children at home, mother is a widow.

Herrn Guenther Kamelia, Berlin W. 35, Schwerin Str. 13
Mother is a widow, seven brothers and sisters. Being hungry one of the children has once stolen a sandwich from a classmate. Guenther is receiving the double portion of school feeding at the moment, because he is always hungry.

Herrn Fritz Rauer, Berlin W. 35, Potsdamerstr
Has eight brothers and sisters, father unemployed.

*

The CARE-prganization, through its representative here, has presented to the Helsinki University Library, the National Library of Finland, a valuable collection of American literature chiefly from the field of medicine. Especially in these times when factors of price and currency strongly influence our acquisition of American literature, this gift means a very great help to research workers in our country.

The CARE representative has informed us that you have financially assisted in the collection of this gift. For the goodwill and generosity thus shown us I beg to express our warm gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) LAURI O. TH. TUDEER
Chief Librarian
University Library
Helsinki, Finland
November 5, 1949

*

Some days ago I received from the Red Cross a notice that I should shortly be given a CARE package. Yesterday the package arrived.

What joy prevailed, just in time for Christmas -- all these gifts -- cannot be put in words. It helps to alleviate our distress. The proverb has proved itself true: "When the need is greatest, God is nearest."

Something about my personal circumstances. I am married and have two little girls (13 and 9 years). My husband is missing in Russia. There is no news whatever to this day. We hope that the day will come right soon when we shall receive a sign of life. This uncertainty weighs upon us quite specially. Therefore we are particularly glad that there are still people

who have sympathy and help to alleviate the distress of others.

I should like therefore in closing to thank you with all my heart for these gifts. Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year,

I remain

(signed) ANNA WITTICH
Holzhausen, 22. December 1949
b./Homberg Bez. Kassel

*

Dear unknown Giver!

A day before the Christmas festival the postman brought us your gift package. The joy that you brought us with this it is hardly possible to describe. Full of curiosity my wife and the four children stood round me when I opened the wrapping. The children performed a veritable dance of joy when they held the big cake of chocolate in their hands. It was a real "gift of the Christ Child" for us.

To be sure, we can again buy a number of things in the shops. America's help speaks out of all the windows. But the financial means are so small that one has to go without much, although one needs it urgently.

I can imagine that every donor will ask himself the question: "what family will receive the package now, and will it be worthy of support at all?" -- I should like to tell you in a few words into what family you have brought Christmas joy. I myself am a native of Karlsbad and was until the year 1938 a Czech citizen and also an employee of the state. My parents and grandparents grew up in the Sudetenland. My wife is a native of Holland. In the year 1938, when the German troops entered into Sudetenland, I had to emigrate -- as I had been active against Hitler Germany -- and I was submerged in the capital city of Prag. But when the protectorate Bohemia-Moravia was created, a time of suffering began for me, as I was taken back to Germany. At last I landed, like every German, with the army, and finally in captivity. 1945 on the 12th XII my family was expelled from Czechoslovakia -- also my parents. We found refuge in Bavaria, shelter and occupation. My seven year old Erika and six year old Irmgard attend the first grade of the public school. Peter and Gerhard (twins) are three years old. Besides them I have my father and mother in my family circle, as they were exiled from Czechoslovakia with 50 kilograms of baggage each. Their savings were taken from them. The 1,000 marks, which they together received as expulsion money, they have lost through the valuation reform. My father is 72 years old; he was a master tailor, and had earned so much that it sufficed for him and for mother for a care-free evening of life -- but through the expulsion they have lost everything and are now dependent on our help, so that I now have to care for my wife, for four children and the two old people. Just from this alone you can estimate what a great joy and help you have given us for Christmas. Please accept my most hearty thanks also in the name of my family.

Enclosed I send you a little picture of our two boys: Peter and Gerhard, who had the greatest joy in the little packages that an unknown good uncle from America has sent us. Again most hearty thanks!

Wishing you a most happy 1950,

Family Oskar Lehretz,
Marktredwitz Obfr.
Oscar Loewstrasse 17
Bayern - GERMANY - U S Occupation Zone.
28. XII. 1949

Editor's Note: Picture referred to is on file with Secretary.

*

Via the CARE Mission, 109 Lentzeallee, Berlin-Germany, we received your food package today.

Whether you intended it for one of our six school-age children or for me makes no difference -- it will benefit the whole family of ten heads.

An intellectual worker I am really too by profession, but unfortunately already half a year without any occupation.

With your magnanimous gift it is surely no unworthy family that you have helped better to withstand an undeserved time of distress, just at a time, too, when our oldest daughter is going to be confirmed in two months.

We two marriage partners have through the terrible effect of the war lost all our goods and our marriage partners. When in July 1947 I returned from Russian captivity ill and frail, we founded a new family in order to give our children father and

mother again.

Unfortunately the unfavorable times did not let us attain any unclouded happiness, as soon the great time of distress came about: the Russian blockade, work shortage, currency valuation reform, and now unemployment. Hopelessness was already taking all our courage away. Your gift gives the children and us new courage for life, as we see that we are not quite deserted.

We thank you in this way with all our hearts. We shall never forget this deed of yours as also that of the American people -- how they, after the crash, had mercy on the suffering peoples.

We wish that this human help may be the best corner-stone for a lasting peace among the peoples.

Believe us, please, that it is hard when one has lost everything, to rear decently eight children, of whom at present six are of school age. But our children are worth the trouble; they are grateful and show by their achievements in school -- especially our twins, Fritz and Paul -- that our education has gone the right way.

Unfortunately my knowledge of the English language, as also that of the children, is not sufficient to thank you in your language. We hope, however, through diligence, soon to be able to remove this lack. If your time should allow it, we should be delighted to receive some written communication from you. It would be a spur and would help us to learn. And the bridge of the mutual understanding of the peoples would be strengthened by a new stone.

Thanking you again most heartily,
we remain with the best wishes,

Your grateful family

(signed) Fritz Rauer
Berlin - W35
Potsdamer str. 168
March 23, 1950

(Editor's Note: We are indebted to Miss Margaret Munsterberg, Rare Book Department, for translating into English three of the letters quoted.)

SOAP BOX -- LATE FLASH

Some of us have been wondering why it is that only those in the Professional Library Service are eligible to make application for an A.L.A. Conference Grant. During the past few years it has been a broad-minded and generous gesture on the part of the Trustees to allow grants up to $100 each toward the expense of attendance at the A.L.A. Annual Conference.

The basis of selection has been all right as far as it goes, preference going to individuals who (1) are formally participating in Conference, (2) are likely to draw particular benefit from ideas, associations, experiences gained from attendance, and (3) who will bring benefit to the Library and its work by having attended.

However, it seems a bit inconsistent that individuals in the Sub-Professional Library Service, while being welcomed to membership in the A.L.A., are not considered eligible for these grants. Isn't it possible that they, too, can benefit from ideas, experiences, etc. and come back to their work with greater enthusiasm and changed viewpoints? How can we urge greater interest in the professional association on the one hand and stamp out a possible incentive for joining on the other hand?

A PROFESSIONAL

LATE FLASHES!!

Mr Starr reports that the order for concession equipment has been placed.

*

The Tello-Test question asked on Monday evening, April 10, was: "What is the largest and heaviest animal that has ever lived?" The answer, "Blue Whale", was given promptly by Miss Mary Rea, Book Purchasing Department. She received $5.00. Congratulations to Miss Rea!

****

The B.P.L.P.S.A.

Announces

A COUNTRY DANCE

L. Winston - Caller

Friday, April 21, 1950 · · · 8:30 - 11 p.m.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY LECTURE HALL
(Enter via Courtyard)

Refreshments

No tickets . pay at door . ADMISSION 60¢, tax included

ALL ARE INVITED . . . COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Wear rubber-soled shoes

Mrs Margaret Butler - Chairman

Francis P. Connell
Mildred E. Francis
Gerard G. Lyons
Helen H. Savakian

Please Post

The B.P.L.P.S.A.

Presents

Mr. Walter Powers,

President of the Boston Bar Association

who will relate a recent experience

"Down the Thames in a Kayak"

Friday Evening, April 28, 1950 at 8:30 p.m.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY LECTURE HALL

An Informal Get-together

will be held in the

Teachers' Department and Young People's Room

at 10 o'clock . . . . . Refreshments

ALL ARE INVITED TO COME AND BRING FRIENDS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs Geraldine S. Herrick, Chairman

Mrs Dorothy M. Lovett Mrs Beryl Y. Robinson

Louis Rains Gladys R. White

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume V, Number 5 May 1950

Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, M. Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

Publication date
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

In the last month there has been distributed by the Special Committee a questionnaire on In-Service Training, which has been prepared with great care and is aimed at obtaining an honest expression of opinion so that future programs may be planned wisely. The Committee is to be commended on its work.

On the other hand, do the people who check questionnaires fully realize their implications and will they give support readily when the activities in which they indicated an interest materialize? Will they come to lectures, forums, and workshops in sufficient numbers to justify the time and effort expended by committee members, and the money involved in securing speakers?

Let's look at the attendance at the last two functions. True, they were not part of an in-service training program, but they were Association-sponsored activities. There were fifty-one who attended the Country Dance, and expenses were barely taken care of. At the Powers' lecture there were approximately fifty-six staff members present.

The question logically arises: Has the time come to re-examine our set-up? Should we face the situation squarely and admit what appears to be a fact -- that a majority of the members of the Association come only to programs for which Library time is allowed, or to hear big-name speakers such as Bishop Wright, the attendance at whose talk tops all so far in the Lecture Hall? Should the Program and Entertainment Committees be relieved of their duties of planning meetings on the in-between level, and be empowered to arrange social evenings only when they can plan a program that would not be duplicated in other clubs and associations to which staff members may belong outside the Library -- even if such events occur only once in two or three years?

We believe that an airing of views on this subject would be welcomed by the officers of the Association. Won't you express your opinion in the next issue of "The Question Mark"?

It is interesting to observe, in passing, that one of the most loyal supporters of these affairs is the one member of the bibliothecal staff who is not eligible for membership in the Association -- The Director!

****

THE PRINTED COVER

The problem of preserving a stencil for the cover of "The Question Mark" for an indefinite time without its becoming torn or accidentally mutilated before it begins its natural deterioration has been one to which the Publications Committee has given consideration in the past year. In order that the cover design chosen by the Association might be no longer subjected to such hazards, the Committee sought a solution to its problem, and finally decided upon a printed cover, the contents continuing in mimeographed form. It was learned that this combination is frequently used for similar publications.

Permission was requested to have the cover printed in the Boston Public Library Printing Department. This was granted.

Miss Mildred Somes, the designer of the cover, was asked to make the necessary black-on-white drawing. This she did. Mr Heintzelman was asked to examine the finished sketch. This he did, and found no changes to suggest.

The Executive Board was asked to authorize an expenditure of money for having the cut made. This they did.

So, you see, the result which graces this issue has been made possible through the unhesitating cooperation of many individuals. The Publications Committee gives them sincere thanks.

****

PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Miss Ingrid E. Kyler, Fine Arts Department.

Mrs Elsa S. Weinberg, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division.

Engagements

Mr Paul A. Kennedy, Circulation Division Office, to Miss Mary Reardon of Dorchester. Miss Reardon is a senior at Boston Teachers' College where Mr Kennedy is working for a Master's Degree in Education.

Mr Sidney Weinberg, Science and Technology Department, Patent Room, to Miss Lois Kovner of Brockton. A fall wedding is planned.

Miss Mary Groden, Book Stack Service, to Mr Anthony Quercia of South Boston.

Miss Patricia Taylor, Book Stack Service, to Mr James Halley of Dorchester.

Resignations

Mr Charles W. Murphy, Book Purchasing Department.

Miss Mary E. Cullinane, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division.

Miss Lucy M. Manzi, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division.

Miss Lola M. Robinson, Book Stack Service, to be married.

Mrs Annette L. Sherman, Personnel Office, to remain at home.

Miss Joan R. Nill, Mattapan Branch Library, to be married.

Miss Natalie C. Herman, Book Stack Service, to be married.

****

WE WELCOME BACK AFTER LONG ILLNESSES

Miss Evelyn Levy, Children's Librarian, Brighton Branch Library.

Miss Florence McManus, First Assistant, Brighton Branch Library.

****

PARTIES AND SHOWERS

On Friday, April 14, the Grill Room at the Copley Square Hotel was the scene of a reception in honor of Miss Evelyn Caswell and Mr John M. Carroll, whose wedding took place on April 22. Many library friends of the couple attended. Gifts from the Reference Division and Supervisor's Offices and a group of friends were presented by Mrs Sarah W. Flannery, History Department.

Mr Martin Waters, History Department, provided solos at the piano, and also accompanied Mr Eamon McDonough, General Reference Department, and the "quartet" in their vocal contributions. The wish to the bridal couple was one of future luck and happiness. A good time was had by all.

*

On Wednesday evening, April 19, Miss Alice O'Brien was hostess at a bridal shower in honor of her sister Miss Frances O'Brien, Registration Department. The shower was attended by various members of the Boston Public Library Staff. Miss O'Brien received many lovely gifts.

*

On Friday evening, April 21, a bridal shower for Miss Lola Robinson, Book Stack Service, was held in the Women's Lounge. Many lovely gifts were received. Refreshments were served.

*

Mrs Annette L. Sherman was the guest of honor at a dinner party given by Mrs Elizabeth L. Wright at her home on April 22, for the staff of the Personnel Office.

*

On Thursday, May 4, Miss Pauline Uccello, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division, was tendered a shower in honor of her forthcoming marriage. The groom-to-be, Mr Vincent Puglisi, is a member of the Art Department for Loew's Theaters. The wedding is to take place on June 4.

The lounge was gayly decorated in pastels and many lovely gifts were received. Approximately thirty-five members of the Library attended, and refreshments were served.

*

On Sunday evening, May 7, Mrs Mary Quinn Smith (formerly a member of the Book Stack Service) was hostess at a miscellaneous shower at her home in West Roxbury, given in honor of Miss Natalie Herman, Book Stack Service. Among the friends who attended were many BPL staff members and BPL Alumnae who enjoyed reminiscing, as well as admiring the many gifts the bride-to-be received.

*

After their monthly meeting on May tenth the Children's Librarians adjourned to the Red Coach Grill to attend a luncheon in honor of their two brides-to-be, Miss Ann Connors, South Boston Branch Library, and Miss Ruth Riceman, Connolly Branch Library. The "surprise" angle worked out beautifully, and neither girl had any idea until she reached there what had been planned for her. They were presented with lovely spring corsages and just before dessert opened their gifts which were also doubles. They were each given sterling silver Paul Revere bowls.

Guests were Miss Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Children, and Mrs Helen Sagoff Berkowitch. The heavy rain did not put a damper on the festivities.

****

WEDDINGS

Miss Sarah Kushner, Book Stack Service, was married to Mr George F. Marshall on April 16. The ceremony and reception were held at the Congregation Adath Jesherun in Dorchester. Mr Marshall is a senior at Northeastern.

*

At 9:00 o'clock on the morning of April 19, in St. Bridgid's Church, South Boston, Miss Victoria Venezia, Book Purchasing Department, was married to Mr Francis X. Cronin. The ceremony was performed by the groom's uncle, Father James Cronin. A reception was held at Foresters Hall, South Boston. Mr and Mrs Cronin are honeymooning in New York and Washington, and on their return will live in South Boston.

*

Of interest to all members of the staff was the marriage of Miss Evelyn F. Caswell, former Assistant in the Science and Technology Department, to Mr John M. Carroll, Deputy Supervisor in the Reference Division and Chief of the General Reference Department.

The impressive ceremony took place on Saturday, April 22, at a Nuptial Mass at the Gate of Heaven Church in South Boston, in a setting of peach gladioli. Chimes and several well-chosen vocal selections added to the solemnity of the occasion.

The attractive bride was lovely in an ivory satin gown, which had beaded flowers superimposed on a panel of exquisite lace. Attached to her close-fitting cap of satin was a chapel veil of illusion. The bridal bouquet consisted of beautiful gladioli and orchids. Miss Josephine Caswell, sister of the bride, gowned in rose-beige chiffon was maid of honor, and pretty little seven-year-old Virginia O'Brien, niece of the bride, in hoop-skirted blue taffeta, served as junior bridesmaid. The happy groom was his usual dignified self, and had as his best man his brother, Mr Joseph F. Carroll.

Among the congregation assembled for the ceremony were many present and former members of the Library staff. A wedding breakfast and reception immediately followed the ceremony at the Hotel Somerset.

Mr and Mrs Carroll have recently returned from their honeymoon in Bermuda to their Bay State Road apartment.

*

Miss Rose DiPasquale, North End Branch Library, was married to Mr Mario Giella on April 27, at St. Leonard's Church. Miss Dorothy K. Becker, North End Branch Library, was the bride's only attendant. Mr and Mrs Giella spent their honeymoon in Bermuda.

*

Miss Frances O'Brien, Registration Department, became the bride of Mr Willis F. Starke on Sunday afternoon, May 7, at St. Mary's Church, Cambridge. For her wedding Miss O'Brien chose a coral suit, and a large natural straw picture hat. A reception followed the ceremony at the home of the bride's father. The couple will reside in Cambridge following a motor trip through the White Mountains.

*

At an impressive candlelight ceremony on Wednesday evening, May 10, in the Washington Street Baptist Church, Lynn, Miss Lola Marie Robinson, Book Stack Service, and Mr Donald MacKay of Lynn were married.

The bride looked beautiful in a gown of white satin with a lace bodice and overskirt and a full length veil with a coronet of seed pearls.

Her five attendants wore lovely gowns of embroidered organdy over taffeta in rainbow colors of blue, peach, yellow, green, orchid, and large pictures hats. Miss Sheila Pierce, Book Stack Service, served as one of Lola's bridesmaids.

The wedding, and reception at the Thompson Club, Nahant, were attended by many guests from the Library.

Mr and Mrs MacKay will make their home in Lynn after a honeymoon trip to upperstate New York.

****

ALUMNAE NOTES

WE WELCOME HOME, after a long hospitalization, Miss Editha Ewing, 955 Beacon Street, Newton Center 59.

*

Mr John J. Connelly, formerly a parttime assistant in the Statistical Department, celebrated his first Mass at St. Peter's Church, Dorchester, at 11:30 a.m., on Sunday, May 7. Several of his former colleagues were present.

*

Announcement has been made of the birth on April 22, of a son, Joseph, Jr. to Mr and Mrs Joseph Milo. Mrs Milo is the former Sally Trentini of the Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference Division.

*

Announcement has been made of the birth on April 21, of a daughter, Joelle, to Mr and Mrs Joseph Ross. Mrs Ross is a former member of the General Reference Department Staff.

*

Announcement has been made of the birth of a daughter, Norine Dolores, to Mr and Mrs Paul Dobay, on April 9. Mrs Dobay is the former Dolores Massoay of the Book Stack Service.

****

ARTICLES BY STAFF MEMBERS

"Lithuanian Night" at South Boston Branch Library, by Mrs Irene H. Tuttle, appeared in The Wilson Library Bulletin for March 1950, page 527 -- in the section PUBLICITY THAT WORKED.

*

The report of the Massachusetts Library Association Midwinter Meeting which appeared in The Question Mark for February was abridged for inclusion in the MLA Bulletin. The contributors were: Mrs Helen Hirson, Mr Paul Moynihan, Miss Sigrid Robinson, Miss Pauline Winnick, Miss Edna G. Peck, Miss Dorothy F. Nourse, and Miss Ruth S. Cannell. "In Memoriam -- Bertha V. Hartzell" by Miss Christine Hayes, was reprinted. Several items were also included. It is gratifying to know that our Association bulletin has furnished material for the State's library association bulletin.

****

ROUND TABLE OF CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

On May 11, at 10:15 a.m., the Round Table of Children's Librarians held a meeting in the Lecture Hall. Mrs Louise Seaman Bechtel of the staff of THE NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE spoke on Plenty That's Good Besides Horses: A Look at the Spring Books with Louise Seaman Bechtel

****

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Just a reminder that the annual meeting of the MLA will take place on Wednesday, May 17, in Worcester. Are you planning to attend?

****

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Since the last report of the President to the Association through the pages of The Question Mark, there have been two meetings of the Executive Board. At the first one held on April 25, Miss Pauline Walker, Chairman of the In-Service Training Committee, submitted the preliminary report of the Committee. The Board agreed with the report on all major points and gave permission for the sending out of the questionnaire as submitted to all Association members. The results of this questionnaire, if it is conscientiously answered, should reflect the attitude of a majority of the staff members on this vital question.

At the second meeting of the Executive Board, on May 9, Miss Alice Hackett, Chairman of the Special Committee Appointed to Study Personnel Rating Procedures, with the possibility of recommending the establishment of a Committee of Review or a Board of Appeal, presented the Committee's report. It was discussed at length. The Board accepted it with a few minor changes, and asked the Committee to present the report at the next business meeting.

*

The May business meeting of the Association will be held in the Lecture Hall on Friday morning, May 26, at 9 o'clock. Notices of the meeting, with agenda, have been sent to all departments and branch libraries. It is hoped that all Association members who can possibly do so, will make an effort to be present. The business meetings give everyone an opportunity to make suggestions, comments, and criticisms. If you agree or do not agree with certain policies and procedures as carried on by the Association, the business meeting gives you a grand opportunity to say so, in the place and the manner in which it will do the most good. The vitality of an organization depends on the interest of its individual members. Are you supporting the BPLPSA with your whole heart? Do you attend the social functions planned by the Program and Entertainment Committees? Do you make an effort to be at all business meetings? Do you pass on to the Executive Board for consideration some of your ideas for wider activities on the part of the Association? If every member could answer "Yes" to each one of these questions, what a thriving organization we would be! It might be worth trying, just to see how vital we could be with 100% effort and participation.

*

The Program and Entertainment Committees are to be congratulated on the successful culmination of two social events. They were successful as evidences of fine committee work; they were successful in that everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed himself; they were not successful from the point of view of staff participation. Attendance at the Country Dance was reduced by the weather, one of those "April showers" that proved to be a deluge. The result was that the party just about made expenses, with but little to add to the treasury. The lecture by Mr Walter Powers was exceptionally fine. It was unfortunate that so many Association members failed to avail themselves of the opportunity to spend a thoroughly delightful evening. It was noted that several Association members brought guests to this meeting. This practice should be more widely adopted. It gives people an opportunity to see library workers in a setting unfamiliar to the general public. It also gives the library personnel an opportunity to play host to their friends in an informal setting. The next time there is a social gathering why don't you plan to come and bring a friend? The Association members are certainly to be commended on the fine response to the request for funds to provide refreshments at the recent social meeting. In fact, by a little Scotch thrift and adroit management, it was possible to pass over to the Treasurer approximately $50.00 to be earmarked for refreshments at the next social gathering. The fine response this time means that the financial outlay for the next such meeting is already adequately provided for. A detailed report of the financial results of these two social gatherings will be given at the May business meeting, by Miss Mary A. Hackett, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee.

*

Mr Aaron Starr, Chairman of the Concessions Committee, reports that all the units for the concession are here. Now all that remains to be done is the installation, and lo and behold we have a concession right under our own roof.

*

Mr Sidney Weinberg and Mr Louis Polishook, the Special Committee appointed to steer through the legislature a bill making it possible to reimburse those library employees who lost their salaries by theft last December, report that the bill has been signed by the Governor and that the City Clerk is preparing the necessary documents for the final stage of this legislation. The Committee hopes that within a relatively short time the money will be forthcoming.

****

BPL ON TV

On Tuesday, May 9, at 11 a.m., Mr Paul Munier appeared on the Tucker Talks program over WBZ-TV, telling of the research he did at the Boston Public Library in connection with the forthcoming Boston Jubilee. He showed pictures taken from books from the Rare Book and Music Departments which are now on exhibit in the outer lobby at Central Library.

On Tuesday, May 16, at 4:15 p.m. over WBZ-TV on the Mildred Carlson at Home program, Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, will demonstrate "How to Make a Drypoint." This marks the fourth appearance on television of a member of the staff since January 1950, each bringing to the public a different aspect of work at the Boston Public Library.

****

CANDY FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Ye Greene Candie Shoppe has been in business again. The proprietor, Mr Samuel Green, reports that 123 lbs. of candy at a cost of $121.16 was sold for Mother's Day. The Association is grateful to Mr Green and his assistants in the Business Office who make possible this privilege of purchasing candy at such a remarkable discount.

****

YOUNG PEOPLE ABROAD

Many Boston Public Library staff members were guests of The Horn Book, Inc. at the College Club, 40 Commonwealth Avenue, Wednesday evening, May 10, when Miss Margaret C. Scoggins, Young People's Specialist of the New York Public Library was the guest speaker. Miss Scoggins spoke of her experiences in Europe where she spent four months of 1949 as representative of the American Library Association and The Rockefeller Foundation in the establishment of the World Youth Library at Munich, Germany. Miss Scoggins had the opportunity to talk with and observe young people at work and play in Germany, France, Holland, and England. She is firmly convinced that young people are fundamentally the same the world over. She found no resentment toward German youth among the young people of the other European nations. All the young people of Europe want to forget the war and its horrible aftermath. They have a firm faith in the future, and an unshaken conviction that peace is possible, if the adults of the world do not misuse their responsibility to build world unity. Miss Scoggins gave her audience a renewed respect for and faith in modern young people. Her enthusiasm was contagious and the audience left with the feeling that if only all the world could be young, with none of the cynicism and mistrust of maturity, the hope for world peace would be in safe hands.

****

BRUNO'S BOMBERS RIDDLE ROSS

The library bowling league ended its season Wednesday, May 10. Frank Bruno's bombardiers, Frank, John Sullivan, Pat Harrington, and George Vazakas, won handily from Don Ross's team, Don, Parker Kennedy, Dave Sheehan. They will be presented prizes at the Hotel Bradford's Circus Room Wednesday, May 17. The league was a success with about thirty-five people faithfully reporting each week. The league will start again next September or October. An article in The Question Mark will notify all bowlers. We hope to have a far larger crowd next season.

As for prizes: Eileen Wilson, top average for girls; Pat Wilson, high string;

Dot Morgan, high three; Don Ross, top average for men; Paul McGillicuddy and Bob Williams, high three; Mike Venezia, high single. They will also be given prizes at the Bradford.

So long until next September!

****

DOWN THE THAMES IN A KAYAK

In the Lecture Hall on Friday evening, April 28, some seventy Association members and friends were welcomed by the President, Miss Edna G. Peck, who introduced Mrs Geraldine Herrick, Chairman of the Program Committee. Mrs Herrick, in turn, introduced the speaker, Mr Walter Powers, President of the Boston Bar Association.

His fascinating talk, however, had nothing to do with the court room or the lawyer's office; on the contrary, it was a sharing with his listeners of the pleasures he experienced during a seven-day trip down the Thames River in a kayak. As a preface to his remarks, Mr Powers answered briefly three questions put to him by Mrs Herrick before the meeting in anticipation of queries that might arise. He took the trip in a kayak because he likes it and considers it the best form of canoeing. He did not take the kayak with him, but bought it over there -- at Oxford. He did not camp out. Mrs Powers accompanied her husband to the starting point. From there on, while he paddled his blue kayak leisurely down the Thames, she saw the surrounding country from a hired automobile, arriving each evening at an inn or hotel which had been previously agreed upon as the place where they would spend the night.

Mr Powers chose the Thames because it is an interesting river -- winding, narrow, fairly clean, and beautiful. There are 36 locks, all but 2 of which are worked by hand, but there are no falls, no rapids, and no dangers, except in times of heavy rain. Fortunately for him, there was no rain during the seven days. The only difficulty he encountered came in the first seven miles when he had to propel his craft through blanket weed, his vivid description of which identified it as something to be definitely avoided.

Supplied with canned orange juice, lemon juice, and water, orangeade and lemonade were "on tap" at all times. This, together with unsweetened biscuits, maple sugar and candy, made most satisfying refreshments during periods of relief from paddling. Mr Powers had brought with him a generous supply of cigarettes, which proved popular as gratuities and were dispensed judiciously.

Having furnished his audience with these preliminary details, Mr Powers went on to outline the trip day by day, identifying the country through which he had passed by sketching its historical background, and relating interesting incidents which have contributed to the significance of the inns, cathedrals, etc., which he and his wife visited.

Mr Powers spoke informally and pleasantly, revealing a delightful sense of humor.

The members of the Entertainment Committee, under the chairmanship of Miss Mary A. Hackett, brought the evening to a happy conclusion by serving refreshments in the Young People's Room. There was an opportunity for chatting with the speaker and with friends.

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COUNTRY DANCE

On Friday evening, April 21, the Association sponsored a country dance in the Lecture Hall. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by the fifty-one who braved the elements and came out on one of the stormiest nights of the month. The Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs Margaret D. Butler, is to be congratulated on its choice of an excellent caller, Miss L. Winston. Refreshments of coke and cookies were served by the Entertainment Committee, Miss Mary A. Hackett, Chairman.

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LIBRARY NIGHT AT THE BALL GAME!

It will be no surprise to ball fans to learn that the 100 tickets which had been reserved for members of the Association for the Red Sox-Cleveland night game on Thursday, June 1, "went like hot cakes". To those who are still hopeful of joining this party, we regretfully announce that there are no more tickets available.

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SECOND LETTER FROM
MISS MURIEL C. FIGENBAUM

Hotel Marigny
11 Rue de l'Arcade
Paris 8, France
April 15, 1950

... I left Paris March 9, and returned just after Easter ...

I decided that it would be better to take an early vacation, especially if I wanted to avoid the tourists whom I expected would be going to Italy in droves. Paris was quite cold when I left, heading south for Marseilles and Nice. I had expected to take a beautiful bus trip along the coast from Marseilles to Nice, but arrived at the railway station at Marseilles in the evening to find the city in partial darkness because of a strike and no buses running out of the city for the same reason -- so by train to Nice. I did enjoy it there -- saw a wonderful Matisse exhibition -- but of course, the high spot of the trip was Italy. I again went by bus from Nice along the coast to Genoa, then to Rome by train. I stayed in Rome for five days, and was busy every minute seeing as much of the city as I could. The museums and the beautiful churches were most interesting -- and the ruins of the ancient Roman city really made one's knowledge of ancient history live. Perhaps most interesting to me was my meeting the artist Giogio de Chirico at the Galleria dell' Obelisco, where I went to see if I could find any information on contemporary Italian print-making. I was invited the following day to have afternoon coffee with him and his wife, and see some more of his work. There seem to be two camps just now -- for and against his work. When I saw his little advertizement for Fiat cars, I could see why!

Well, there is so much to say about Rome that it is better for me not to try to say anymore in this short note. I left Rome to go to Florence, another bus trip. This time it was a special bus trip organized by the Sita bus company, and included many stops at points of interest and involved three days instead of the usual one. Doing this I was able to see the beautiful churches at Orvieto, Siena, Assisi, and San Gimignano. The town of Perugia also was most interesting for its early Etruscan ruins and gates. It was the first trip of the season and in addition to being rather cold as far as weather went, it was also early for the tourists, and believe it or not, I had the whole bus to myself for three days. I will admit it was a bit lonely at times, and the roads were so curving that I did not dare talk to the driver for fear we would go over the edge. Every time we attempted a conversation it was a mixture of French and Italian and he would turn completely around to talk to me, not looking at the road. His French was as bad as my Italian, so you can imagine the conversations. However, it was a beautiful trip, and the Italian countryside brings every painting of the Italian masters to life -- all the little hill towns, perched right up on top, the vineyards, and the funny little trees that one sees so often in Leonardo and Raphael.

Florence is magnificent. I have never had such a wonderful time, but yet such a tiring one. There is so much to see, so many beautiful world-renowned works of art that one is just completely overwhelmed. One has to take into consideration the peculiar hours, and just not try to do anything at noon time -- just wait until things are open again. Perhaps the most impressive was the Uffizi where one sees Titians by the half-dozen and other famous things as well, the Botticelli's for example. Part of the Uffizi was damaged during the bombings and is closed, but most of the paintings that cannot be seen at the Uffizi are at the Pitti Palace and can be seen there. I was so pleased to see the Ponte Vecchio -- the only bridge that was left standing by the Germans; the others are now just metal one-way traffic bridges which serve the purpose and that is all. One has been rebuilt as it was before and probably the others will be in time. The things that moved me most were the beautiful Fra Angelicos in the San Marco Museum, of course, the great Michelangelos (the Medici Chapels), and a beautiful Perugino fresco in a little out-of-the-way convent, where if you ring the bell a little girl will come and let you in and you may look in solitary meditation as long as you wish. There is so much there that it is difficult to describe all of the wonderful things -- but whoever is coming next -- allow more than three days if you are interested in art.

From Florence I went bus riding again to Venice. Yes, it is possible to take a bus to the city of water. You are left on the outskirts and from there, take a gondola. This bus was Ciat, another bus company of the "gran tourisme". We were three this time, three passengers, two bus drivers and a hostess, all these last dressed in a very natty brown. How they love uniforms there! The high spot of this trip was going over the mountain pass just outside of Florence and then the stop at Ravenna to see the mosaics. They are beyond all imagination -- just look at the reproductions in the Fine Arts Department and think of them as being much, much lovelier. There mosaics are the most important in Italy.

Venice itself was rather cold, but picturesque. I often wondered just what the mode of transportation would be -- that is for every-day work for the people who lived there. There seem to be various methods in use, of course, the most picturesque is the gondola, which is slow, rather expensive, and rather chilly in the winter, but fun all the same. There are also motorscafi, which are really motorboats which go along at a fairly good speed, spoil the atmosphere of Venice, and of course, are covered. For the average Venetian and the tourist as well, the most economical is the vaporetto, which is the streetcar of Venice. It is a fairly large boat, with both open and closed sections which plies along the Grand Canal, making stops at frequent intervals, alternating its stops on either side. It is a lot of fun just to ride from one end of the Grand Canal to the other, watching the people and the palaces. There are also frequent traghettos (ferries) which take people across from one side to the other in little gondolas.

I went back to Paris by way of Milan, which was hot and humid after the cold freshness of Venice. Milan is beginning to get cleaned up after the bombings and there are many evidently new buildings, and old buildings which are getting new interiors. The cathedral was untouched.

I had not realized the extent of the damage around Leonardo's "Last Supper". I expected the natural deterioration of the fresco, but did not realize the place had been bombed. All but two walls were completely demolished and have now been rebuilt; about all that remained standing after the bombing was the "Last Supper" and part of another wall -- a miracle! I also managed to visit La Scala, where I saw "La Tosca".

From Milan I went up through Switzerland, enjoying the beautiful scenery and seeing print dealers. It seems strange to know people by sales catalogues only and then suddenly to actually see the people and the gallery. Berne and Lausanne both have outstanding print dealers. Prices, of course, are high in Switzerland, as everywhere, but there are all sorts of American goods that can be bought. For the first time I saw packages of Kleenex, American soap, and all the nylons you could want -- stockings, blouses, etc. Italy had American soap and things but not in abundance as in Switzerland. I spent Easter in Vevey, where I visited friends of Mr & Mrs Heintzelman and had the opportunity to see their former residence, way up on a hill above Vevey overlooking the Lake of Geneva (Lac Leman) and the Dents du Midi. Here I had beautiful weather, fairly warm, with magnolia trees in bloom and all the spring flowers just coming out. Easter reminds me a bit of the Fourth of July at home -- especially if it falls on a weekend. Everyone goes away for Easter, to the old home, to the country, to the city, or somewhere. The holiday starts Thursday evening, and most everything is closed up until the following Tuesday -- just the thing to start in Boston.

Now I am back in Paris, the weather is a bit warmer, and the trees are beginning to come out. Practically all of the Library staff has been on vacation for the last week or so, and the rest will be away for the next two weeks. The Library closes for two weeks in April every year to get itself cleaned up and ready for the students again. I believe the exhibition galleries are open, but the study rooms are closed. I was told that I would be able to get in, however, so we will see when Monday comes.

The exhibition there at present is well worth mentioning -- a collection of the "chefs d'oeuvre de L'Albertina de Vienne", which contains some of the most celebrated drawings in the world. That study of hands by Durer, and the drawing of the rabbit, that everyone knows, and beautiful Rembrandts, as well as many other drawings of all schools.

Just a last word on the Paris fashion—skirts are getting shorter again -- but you probably read all about it in the American magazines anyway. I really feel a little bit peculiar in my last spring's suit, which is a bit long for Paris.

Very sincerely yours,
(SIGNED) Muriel C. Figenbaum

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BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL FUND

As the result of interest expressed by members of the Boston Public Library staff who have trained or studied under the direction of Mrs Bertha V. Hartzell, a committee has been formed to consider the possibility of establishing a memorial in her honor. Money will be raised by voluntary contributions from those who are interested in this plan, and therefore the final decision on the form of the memorial will be made when the committee knows the amount of money available. Contributions may be sent to Mrs Bertha Keswick in the Branch Issue Department in the near future.

Several suggestions have been made and discussed concerning the form of such a memorial, including:

1. A scholarship for study in a library school
2. Books for the Staff Library
3. A lectureship
   a. In connection with the Library In-Service Training program
   b. In connection with Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association In-Service Training program
4. A permanent object or piece of equipment for the Staff Library

The committee hopes to receive comments on these ideas, as well as any further suggestions. They should be addressed to the Chairman, Miss Dorothy Shaw, Periodical and Newspaper Department, as soon as possible.

The members of the BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL COMMITTEE are:

Miss Dorothy P. Shaw, Chairman
Miss Anne F. Coleman, Secretary
Mrs Bertha S. Keswick, Treasurer
Mrs Geraldine T. Beck
Miss Elinor E. Day
Mr Charles J. Gillis
Miss Evelyn Levy
Miss Pauline A. Walker

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CARE

The Special Committee on CARE would like the members of the BPLPSA to know that on May 5, a check for $200, was presented to Mrs Madeleine Frawley at the New England Office of CARE. That news should make all who helped feel proud of their part in sharing in this worthy cause.

Fifteen ten-dollar food packages are to be sent to the following countries: Netherlands, Norway, Italy, France, Japan, Belgium, Israel, and Czechoslovakia. The last named country will not have any more packages of any kind sent to it after June 15. We have been informed that all agencies, including CARE, have been ordered out of the country by that date.

Fifty dollars has been turned over to the CARE'S BOOK PROGRAM to be used for the purchase of books to be sent where most needed.

The Committee wishes to thank all for their generosity and expresses the hope of continued participation in this good work. The Committee believes that the following letter from CARE will be of interest:

Dear Miss Lambert:

Will you please convey to the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association my congratulations and sincere appreciation for the outstanding support it has given to CARE in the past two years.

Through the funds contributed by the Association, CARE food and textile packages - and, most recently, new books - have brought sorely needed help to library workers in Europe and Asia.

Despite the strides toward recovery, the people overseas remain in need of direct aid. Italy has over 2,000,000 unemployed. Food and clothing are still priced out of reach for most families in Western Germany, where wages average $58 a month. In Great Britain, meat remains rationed at 3/4 lb. to one lb. a week. In France, the average worker earns $45 a month, but must pay food prices equivalent to our own - 65¢ a dozen for eggs, 80¢ a pound for butter.

In Pakistan, over 8,000,000 destitute refugees live in crowded camps. In Manila, where inflation has pushed prices sky-high, the contents of CARE's $10 Philippine Food Package would cost $20.

These figures show the continued need for CARE. The continued support of your organization can do much to keep bringing CARE to those who need it. Just as important as the material aid, is the person-to-person assurance of democratic friendship that goes with your CARE gifts - a tangible expression of the desire of Americans to help build one world united in understanding and peace.

Sincerely yours,
(signed) Paul Comly French
May 9, 1950 Executive Director

COMMITTEE ON CARE

Helen L. Lambert, Chairman
Doris N. French
Florence K. Goodman
Bertha Keswick

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JOHN DEFERRARI PORTRAIT IN VENETIAN LOBBY

There is now on view in the Venetian Lobby, to the left of the entrance to the Young People's Room, the oil portrait of the late John Deferrari, Boston Public Library's munificent benefactor. In accordance with the terms of the John Deferrari Indenture of Trust, dated July 1, 1947, the portrait has been placed in a prominent location, eventually being intended to hang in the wing or room that will bear his name. Prior to Mr Deferrari's death, and since the acceptance of the portrait by the Trustees, it has hung in the Trustees' Room. The portrait was displayed briefly in the main lobby at the time of its completion by the eminent American artist, Leopold Seyffert, in 1948. The Venetian Lobby has been hung in handsome crimson drapes that do much to bring out the richness of the execution of the portrait. Cut flowers help make this a dignified but warm tribute to the late benefactor of the public through the field of library service.

Mr Deferrari's recent death brings to mind the surprise that attended the announcement of the generous gift that he made to the Library in 1947. Staff members who had seen Mr Deferrari using the Library had good reason to be especially gratified that their service to him as an individual did nothing to impair his view of librarians as the intellectual executors of the ideals he wished to make possible for the young people of the community to learn about and to live up to through books. This is brought out by the following statement which has been quoted by many newspapers and is on the card on display beneath the portrait:

"On July 1, 1947 Mr. John Deferrari, a life-long resident and businessman of Boston, established THE JOHN DEFERRARI FOUNDATION for the benefit of the Boston Public Library.

"Himself the beneficiary of its facilities throughout his life, Mr. Deferrari wished to call attention to the great opportunities which the Library offers to young people, regardless of race, creed, or fortune, to move from simple beginnings to wide and successful accomplishment by dint of application and by sturdy development or character. His counsel to all was to 'Make good use of your time, keep learning, and play fair.'

"The FOUNDATION will amount eventually to $2,000,000. This will be in addition to providing $1,000,000 for the erection of a JOHN DEFERRARI WING to the Central Library Building."

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Algren, Nelson
The man with the golden arm
Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, 1949

Bowles, Paul F.
The sheltering sky
New York, New Directions, 1949

Bristow, Gwen
Jubilee trail
New York, Crowell, 1950

Calmer, Ned
The strange land
New York, Scribner, 1950

Cary, Joyce
The horse's mouth
New York, Harper, 1944

Du Maurier, Daphne
The parasites
Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, 1949
Forester, Cecil S.
Mr Midshipman Hornblower
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950
Goudge, Elizabeth
Gentian Hill
New York, Coward-McCann, 1949
Hersey, John
The wall
New York, Knopf, 1950
Jennings, John E.
The sea eagles
Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, 1950
Marshall, Bruce
To every man a penny
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1949
Shellabarger, Samuel
The King's cavalier
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

Non-fiction

Bush, Vannevar
Modern arms and free men
New York, Simon & Schuster, 1949
Highet, Gilbert
The classical tradition
New York, Oxford, 1949
Hogben, Lancelot T.
From cave painting to comic strip
New York, Chanticleer Press, 1949
Illinois Library Association
Retirement provisions for public librarians in downstate Illinois
Urbana, 1949
Jacoby, Oswald
Complete canasta
Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, 1950
Kane, Harnett T.
Queen New Orleans
New York, Morrow, 1949
Library literature, 1940-42, 1946-48
New York, Wilson, 1943, 1949
McCormack, Lily
I hear you calling me
Milwaukee, Bruce, 1949
Minnesota University. Division of library instruction
The use of books and libraries, 5th ed.
Minneapolis, Univ. of Minn. Lib., 1947
Princeton University. Department of Economics and Social Institutions. Industrial Relations Section.
A trade union library, 1949, 5th ed.
Princeton, N. J., Princeton Univ., 1949
Savage, Ernest A.
Manual of book classification and display for public libraries
London, Allen & Unwin, 1949
Taylor, Robert L.
W. C. Fields
Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, 1949
Tharp, Louise H.
The Peabody sisters of Salem
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

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MATERIAL OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

Disloyalty by imputation or by due process. Verner W. Clapp. Library Journal. April 15, 1950, p. 678 et seq.

All who read this article will be amply rewarded by the discovery that the article is one of the sanest and clearest approaches to the "use vs. abuse" controversy relative to the A.L.A. loyalty investigation resolution that has yet appeared in print. One could wish that this statement received prominence at least equal to the many other, but less lucid, papers on the same general topic. Companion pieces to the Clapp article are two others on the same topic which would repay careful reading.

C.L.H.

First California returns on the Public Library Inquiry. Edwin Castagna. Library Journal, May 1, 1950. pp. 741-44.

If the reactions of this group of 450 Southern California librarians to the conclusions and recommendations of the Public Library Inquiry, as reported in this article are typical of the reactions of the profession as a whole, Dr Alice Bryan's findings in her study The Public Librarian (as reported at various library gatherings but not yet published) may well be substantiated. The discussions as a whole were characterized by suspicion and distrust of the experts undertaking the investigations, and self congratulatory satisfaction with the status quo. Most discouraging of all was the general ignorance on the part of librarians of the content of the volumes of the study. As one discussion leader reported, "except in a few cases it was clear that no new approach was

considered, nor was there any sign of a revolution in basic thinking about the function or the scope of the library". The few dissenters from the majority, mainly from the larger libraries, were not so complacent and expressed the fear that we are in danger of losing the very public that Dr Berelson has pointed to as providing our greatest opportunity.

Supervision in Libraries: What it is -- and What it takes, by Edward B. Stanford, A.L.A. Bulletin, April 1950, pp. 119-121. This is the first in a series of articles on the role of supervisory work in the library field. Dr Stanford is Chairman of the A.L.A. Board on Personnel Administration. Members of the staff who attended the Pre-Conference Clinic on Personnel Administration at the A.L.A. Conference held in Atlantic City in 1948 will remember that Dr Stanford was the able chairman who was responsible for the outstanding success of the program.

If not the People's University -- Then What?, Public Libraries, March 1950, pp. 3-18. This is made up of four papers presented at a symposium sponsored by the A.L.A. Public Libraries Division, the Trustees Division, and the Extension Division, at the A.L.A. Midwinter meeting in January 1950. These are answers to the conclusion expressed by Dr Robert Leigh in his report on THE PUBLIC LIBRARY INQUIRY, i.e., that the role of the public library "...is the role not of the people's university, but of the library of the people's university." They are by one non-librarian, Mr Woodrow M. Strickler, Director, Division of Adult Education, University of Louisville, and three librarians, Mr Emerson Greenaway, Director, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Mr Ralph A. Ulveling, Director, Detroit Public Library, and Mrs Carma Russel Zimmerman, State Librarian, State of Washington.

Quackery in the Public Schools, by Albert Lynd, The Atlantic, March 1950, pp. 33-38. This article on professionalism in the field of education might be read, substituting "library" for school, etc., with amusement by some of the less self-conscious members of the library profession.

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BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

May 8 saw the opening of the annual Spring Book Festival in the Children's Room. The decorations featured a maypole in the center, surrounded by gaily colored maybaskets, while pastel posters carried out the theme around the walls. Response to the spring reading contest was attractively displayed by the individual maybaskets the children filled with flowers as their scores mounted. On Monday and Tuesday afternoons special story hours were held; spring, and its attendant return of the skipping rope, was celebrated with the telling of Elsie Piddock Skips in her Sleep, and Sir James M. Barrie's birthday was called to attention with the telling of his well-loved Peter Pan. Since an unfortunate series of mishaps forced the cancellation of the puppet show scheduled for Wednesday, the children saw two puppet films, The Princess and the Dragon, and Three Fox Fables. On Thursday a musical program was provided by the Flute Club of the Central Square Center, and Friday the movie program consisted of The Honest Woodsman and The Hare and the Tortoise. Nearly a hundred children have proved eligible to receive the gold key book-marks which indicates that they have filled a library card without incurring a single fine.

Jeffries Point

On the evening of May 1, Jeffries Point Branch Library played host to the Frolic Club, a group of teen-agers who meet Monday evenings at the Marginal Street Centre. When one of the social workers told a recent meeting of the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Council that this club -- their first experiment in a mixed group of boys and girls -- had become so popular that the Centre was hard put to provide space and entertainment for them, we suggested bringing them in a group to the Library for a film showing. We further suggested that the boys and girls select from our Film Catalog the pictures they would like to see. Fortunately, we were able to provide their first choices -- The River, and The House I Live in. About fifty young people, many of whom do not regularly use the Library, came with their group leader. Before the films were shown, we had an opportunity to renew cards, suggest installment payments for those whose cards were

finable, and to help the youngsters select books. It was a pleasant evening for the boys and girls, adding variety to their usual Monday night meeting. Jeffries Point Branch Library was happy to be able to cooperate in this way with a neighborhood agency serving young people.

South Boston

The Library's carpenters and painters are putting the finishing touches on the new quarters at 386-388 West Broadway, and it is expected that the branch library will re-open there early in June.

Uphams Corner

On May 8, at 7:30 p.m., twelve girls from the Uphams Corner Girls' Club took part in a play called, "Hubbub on the Bookshelf". The girls had made their own costumes. Teachers and parents were invited to attend and approximately 55 were present. After the performance an opportunity was given for an examination of new spring books. Punch and cookies were served in the Children's Room.

West End

Patrons and friends who recently had an opportunity to meet Miss Shirley Graham, author and composer, at a Negro History Week program at this branch library, will be interested in the interview by Harriet B. Blackburn in the Christian Science Monitor, Thursday, April 27.

*

The very colorful and graphically portrayed statistics on the causes and effects of Cancer which the West End Branch Library exhibited the first two weeks of May created a noticeable reaction. Many visitors carried off the literature supplied to the branch library through the courtesy of the American Cancer Society.

*

Already a part of the Boston Jubilee Program, with the branch library's appearance in the Boston Post's Jubilee notes on May 2 and 3, plans have been made to exhibit an extensive collection of West Endiana which has grown considerably since its beginning in 1930, as a feature of the Boston Tercentenary observance. This display, including books, clippings, and pictures, will be on view from May 18-22.

*

A showing of paintings and photographs by Mr Robert Hayes and Mr Robert Rollins, West End artists and library patrons, on May 24-June 7 will be the first in a summer program of exhibits. Mr Rollins, a career artist, will exhibit landscapes. Mr Hayes, a painter for the past twelve years, will show portraits, as well as examples of his art in photography. Art lovers and amateur brush-wielders are invited to attend.

*

On Saturday morning, April 29, an original play entitled "The Humble Aunt" was produced at the West End Branch Library by a small group of girls before the usual story-hour audience and several mothers. The play was written and produced by Lora Byrnes, a 7th grade pupil in the William Blackstone School. Miss Byrnes hopes to write and produce several other plays for similar audiences at the branch library in the coming months.

*

The Spring Book Festival was observed with appropriate book exhibits and with the beginning of a series of Saturday trips planned for West End children. On May 13, a group of fifteen children, with the Children's Librarian, Miss Elinor Day, visited the Christian Science Monitor Maparium. This was a new experience for most of the children, and was much enjoyed by all. Other similar trips are planned for the summer months, including visits to the new temporary Science Museum, Otis House, The Riverside Press, and other points of interest within the Boston area.

*

Besides the usual Summer Reading Club plans, arrangements are being made to introduce West End children to music appreciation. Small groups from the nearby playgrounds will be invited to visit the branch library during the hot summer days for a quiet half-hour of listening to recordings. At the same time, books on music and musicians will be introduced to the children, and stories specially chosen for the occasion will be told to liven their interest. During the Esplanade season, it

may be possible to take groups to the morning concerts.

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SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

To the Soap-Box:

I was very annoyed to see, at the bottom of "A Reading List Suggested by the Boston Public Library in connection with the film 'All the King's Men,'" a box with the blurb "Columbia's Great Movie!" followed by the names of the principal actors. I did not think that the publications of the Boston Public Library, however small, were to be used to advertise the products of business or industry.

The attemp to stimulate interest in books and knowledge is a valid purpose of a Library; it is another matter, however, if in the process the Library becomes a prey, or rather, a party to the blatent commercialism spewed forth by Hollowood.

Gammer Gurton

Editor's Note: We are informed by the Information Office that book lists for use on bookmarks are prepared by a member of the Library's Staff only after that person, if possible, and always a member of the staff of the Information Office, has seen the picture. The bookmarks are then printed by the Theater, after proof has been submitted to the Library, in quantity for distribution both at the theater and at the Library, without expense to the Library. The policy is to delete extravagant advertising, but that referred to above "got by". Often these lists stimulate interest in books not recently popular. The use of booklists on theater bookmarks seems to be one satisfactory way of bringing the Library to the attention of a large number of potential users without the Library's being involved in the expenses of such advertising.

*

Whenever there is a shower in the lounge or kitchen after five o'clock, there is nowhere for staff members who work at night to sit and read or talk in comfort and without feeling an interloper. Requests have been made at various times that the Staff Library be kept open until six and on Saturdays, by various staff members. The reply has always been that there is no one to lock it up as the Personnel department is not open. Most of the women on the staff wash or sew or clean house or shop on their morning off. After that, and an afternoon of work, relaxation is needed in order to refrain from chewing off the heads of the public during the evening session. It would be a distinct service not only to the staff but to the public if the Staff Library might remain open until six on such occasions at least, if not always. And on Saturday many employees would appreciate the atmosphere of the Staff Library at relief and lunch time, even if they did not want to look up something there as they often do. Is there no one else in the building trustworthy except the Personnel Office? Couldn't the Supervisor "sup" there at these hours?

*

I'm tired -- and it isn't spring fever! This is permanent. I'm tired of staff manners in the women's lounge. I'm tired of moving tables and chairs to get to my favorite chair. I'm tired of seeing the clutter of candy papers and fruit peelings in an ashtray I am about to use, instead of in the wastebasket. I'm tired of loud blasts from the radio left on by a "devotee" who has left the room. I'm tired of said radio playing so loudly no one can relax or read. I'm tired of clouds of dense smoke because someone is too lazy to cross the room to turn on the exhaust fan (the button to the right of the middle door, in case you didn't know). I'm tired of dirty

sofas and chairs because girls who know better put their feet on them without removing their shoes. Page Emily Post!... or even your mother! Good manners have often been defined as putting yourself in another's place and giving no cause for offense. It only takes a couple of seconds to move a chair back where it belongs, to reach for a wastebasket, to put away a card table, to take off your shoes, to snap off the radio...and how much more pleasant it makes life for everyone!

*

There is a class of worker in this Library system that has been thoroughly discriminated against since 1938. No--it is not the poor sub-professional this time! It is the professional assistant in the Reference Division! Should not the promotional examination system be revised so that the Reference Division assistant has a fairer chance for advancement? Let us look at the situation.

In the Circulation Division the promotional examinations for steps III through V are, in general, the same for all. And the staff member who passes such an examination, in theory at least, has as many chances for promotion as there are branches (plus some departments in the Central Library). But, in the Reference Division, the case is far sadder. In these specialized departments the examinations are based on the subject field, and practically no two departments have similar fields. Therefore when an assistant passes an examination for steps III through V in this Division, he may remain all his life unpromoted, because he has only the ONE chance in his own department in competition, of course, with several fellow-departmental workers. And vacancies above him rarely occur. He can, of course, take examinations in another department which, in theory again, gives ONE other chance for promotion, and that in competition with staff members who have had experience in that department as he has not. Also these examinations take years of study into unknown and very specialized fields. Even if the employee can manage by studying for years to pass examinations for several other departments, he still has far fewer chances for promotion and for that all-important (to him) pay increase! Then, too, there is that most important question of morale. He may be more capable than some of the Circulation Division personnel but he remains a 3d stepper while the Circulation Division assistant who came into the service the same year (or much, much later, as is common) becomes a Branch Librarian with the resultant prestige, personal satisfaction, and higher pay. Can any employee be expected to go on contributing his best efforts year after year when he has no reward for his work and what is worse, little hope for the future?

Granted that the underlying purpose of the promotional system is to provide titular positions with incumbents who know their field, most well-trained and interested professionally-minded reference assistants can LEARN a new field in a reasonably short time by actually working in it, far better than they can from cramming for an examination or taking courses in the field. Nor has the Administration apparently considered lack of subject background a handicap in other cases when staff members have been given chief-ships in departments out of their fields, and that in the Reference Division in the past five years.

If the Reference Division assistant is to be penalized along promotional lines should not some other pay increase be granted him to keep him on a level with the Circulation Division employees who entered the service at approximately the same time and with no more outstanding capabilities and background? Or does the Reference Division assistant continue to pay a penalty for possessing specialized knowledge which is of great use to the Library, regardless of his ability?

****

LATE FLASH

On Friday, May 12, Miss Julia Barry, Assistant at Faneuil Branch Library, was honored at a "bon voyage" party at the Abner Wheeler House, given by her co-workers. Miss Barry sails for Europe on June first. She was presented with a travelling clock. A good time was had by all.

****

OH OH! IT'S "LIBRARY NIGHT" AT THE BALLGAME!

100 TICKETS!
FIRST COME
FIRST SERVED!

RED SOX VS CLEVELAND

THURSDAY NIGHT - JUNE 1, 1950

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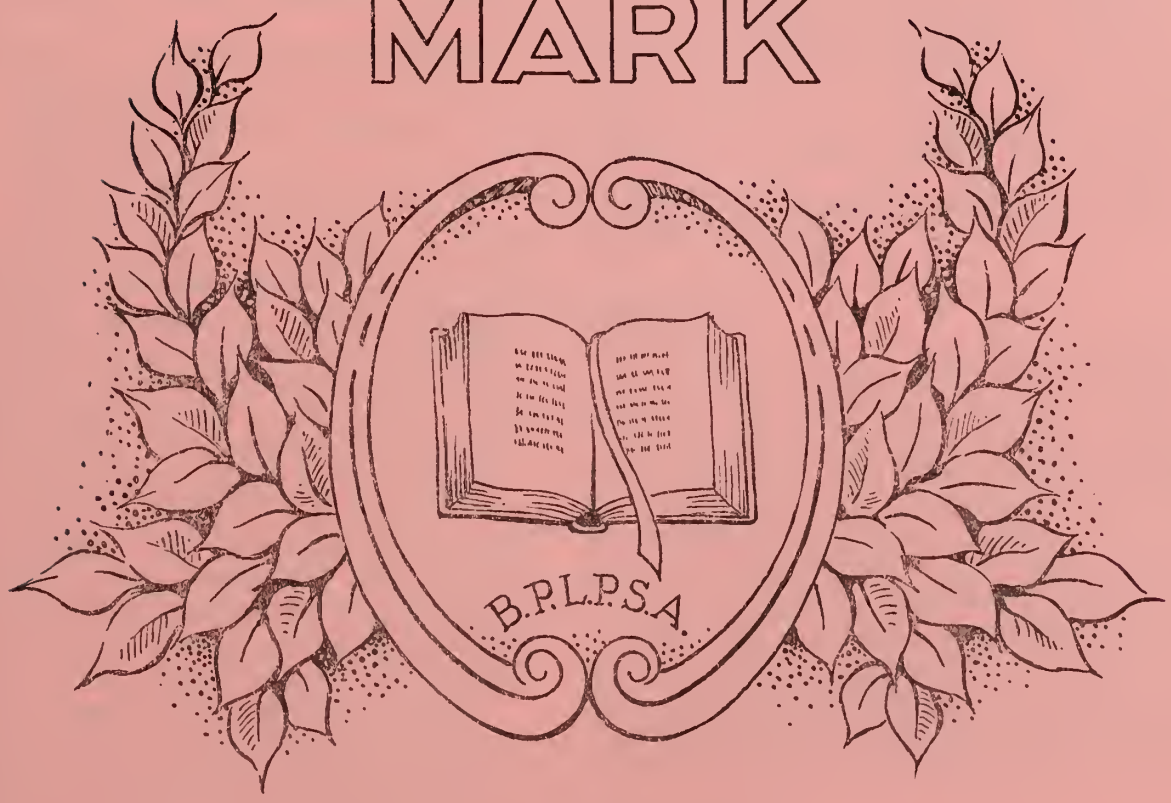
THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

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Volume V, Number 6 June 1950

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EDITOR'S CORNER

The reports of three special committees which were read at the Business Meeting are of such importance in their scope and implications that a careful study of them is recommended to each member of the Association.

1. Report on In-Service Training (Appendix A)
2. Report on Personnel Service Ratings (Appendix B)
3. Report on Sabbatical Leaves of Absence (Appendix C)

Believing them to be valuable contributions toward furthering the aims of the Association as stated in the Constitution: "to foster professional librarianship and to further the common interests and welfare of the professional staff," they are being incorporated into this issue of The Question Mark as appendices.

All three reports are the work of committees made up of individuals who have approached their tasks with open minds, have accurately evaluated the purposes to be achieved, and have gathered pertinent background information from dependable sources. Their recommendations are thought-provoking and forward-looking.

Apropos of the report on sabbatical leaves, it may be remembered by those who were on the staff at that time that in 1930 and 1931 recognition was given to the value of travel when there was granted three weeks' additional vacation with pay, for travel, to each of three members of branch library staffs. Nineteen years have elapsed since that innovation, which could not be developed further presumably because of the series of economic crises which followed.

Perhaps never before in the short life of the Association has its membership had reason to be so much concerned with what may be the outcome of studies made by its special committees.

****

PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Mrs Dorothy S. Rosen, Charlestown Branch Library (Mrs Rosen formerly worked part time at the West End Branch Library).

Miss Jeanette L. Lipinski, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

Miss Eleanor L. Jewett, Trustees Office.

Mrs Alice Riley, Charlestown Branch Library.

Miss Joyce Silhavey, Jamaica Plain Branch Library.

Transfers

Miss Joan Donlon, Book Purchasing Department to Personnel Office.

Miss Marie F. McCarthy, Cataloging and Classification for Home Reading Services to Book Purchasing Department.

Mrs Rose C. Leavitt, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services to West Roxbury Branch Library.

Miss Rose L. LaConca, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services to Book Stack Service.

Miss Helen M. Donovan, Jamaica Plain Branch Library to Bookmobile.

Resignations

Miss Frances L. Shine, Trustees Office, to do graduate work at Cornell University.

Miss Ruth Riceman, Connolly Branch Library, to be married.

Mr Earle Rankin, Music Department.

Practice Student

Mr Anthony M. Alden, a Simmons College School of Library Science student, did his practice work in the General Reference Department from June 5 - 9, 1950.

Library Visitor

Miss Concordia Sanchez, a student at the Columbia University School of Library Service, visited the Library on June 5, 1950. She is Chief of the Readers' Section of the University of the Philippines Library in Manila.

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PARTIES, SHOWERS, WEDDINGS

On Saturday, April 29, the staff of the Mattapan Branch Library was entertained at a buffet luncheon at the home of Mrs Florence Goodman. The party was a farewell to Miss Joan R. Nill, Children's Assistant, who was married on May 27 to Mr Henry Talmadge Howland at the Robinson Memorial Church, Syracuse, New York. The staff presented Miss Nill with a hammered aluminum ice bucket.

*

On Tuesday noon, May 9, the members of the Open Shelf Department gave a luncheon at Salmagundi Tea Room in honor of Mrs Patricia Laubach, Unclassified Assistant. Mrs Laubach and her husband moved to Oregon on completion of Mr Laubach's studies at Boston University School of Theology. Mrs Laubach was presented with a white pique blouse.

*

On May 18, a shower was tendered Miss Eleanora Fiorio, Book Purchasing Department, in the staff lounge, by her friends.

*

On Wednesday, May 24, Miss Sigrid Robinson was the guest of honor at a bon voyage luncheon given for her at Salmagundi Tea Room by the members of the Open Shelf Department. Miss Robinson was presented with a white nylon blouse and corsage of spring flowers.

*

A shower was given for Miss Anne Connors by Mrs Irene Tuttle and Miss Madalene Holt on Friday, May 26. The staffs of the South Boston and Charlestown Branch Libraries, together with special guests, surprised Miss Connors with attractively wrapped gifts overflowing a large Maybasket. Only one set of duplicates was found - practically a record! Refreshments in the form of ice cream Maybaskets and a white bridal cake carried out the theme. Guests unraveled the story of Miss Connor's courtship by supplying book titles for an original game. The completed version was then presented to Miss Connors as a hand-illuminated and illustrated "Bride's Book". The party was held at the Beacon Hill apartment of Miss Madalene Holt and Miss Dorothy Nourse.

*

On Friday, May 27, Miss Alice E. Bulman of Connolly Branch Library, was given a surprise shower by the members of the staff. She is to be married on August 6, to Mr Daniel Galvin of Dorchester.

*

On Friday, June 2, members of the staff of the Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services (nee Circulation Division Office) entertained Mrs Rose Leavitt at a luncheon at the Red Coach Grill. Before leaving for the luncheon Mrs Leavitt was presented with a gold bracelet and matching earrings, a gift from her many friends in Central. Mrs Leavitt returned to branch work on June 5, at the West Roxbury Branch Library.

*

On Saturday, June 3, a luncheon was tendered Miss Gladys Rosenberg at the Hi-Da-Way by the staff of the Mattapan Branch Library. Miss Rosenberg has been an extra assistant at Mattapan since 1944 when she was a high school student. She was graduated June 12 from Boston Teachers' College and will assume a position as a special class teacher in the Boston Public Schools. The staff presented Miss Rosenberg with a wallet. The occasion was also a reunion for many of the girls who worked at Mattapan in the past five years.

*

Miss Beatrice Palmer, Children's Librarian at Dorchester Branch Library, was

tendered a shower on Saturday afternoon, June 3, at the Toll House in Whitman. The bride-to-be was given a place setting of silver as a wedding present from her friends and co-workers present. Miss Palmer was married to Mr A. Philip Frederick on Saturday, June 10, at Charlestown, New Hampshire.

*

A "bon voyage" party was held on June 7 in honor of Miss Gloria Shine, Children's Assistant at Dorchester Branch Library, who will sail for Europe on Monday, June 26.

*

Miss Frances L. Shine was guest of honor at a farewell dinner party at Durgin-Park on Thursday evening, June 8. Those in attendance along with Miss Shine were Miss Elizabeth B. Brockunier, Miss Marilyn R. Bruhn, Miss Phyllis M. Hoffman, and Mrs Lulu N. Ross, present staff members of the Trustees Office; Mrs Isabelle M. Leen, a former member of the staff; and Miss Betty Fitzgerald of Cataloging and Classification for Reference and Research Services. Following dinner, the group attended the Brattle Theatre in Cambridge for the showing of "The Country Wife". Miss Shine plans to attend Cornell University where she will do graduate work in Creative Writing in connection with attaining her Master's Degree.

*

The staff at Connolly Branch Library is planning a gala party for its six extra assistants who are graduating this June from high school or business school. They are Dorothy Jaferian, Kathleen Dell School; Mary Day, Holy Trinity High School; Elaine Millet, Girls' Latin School; Mary Donoghue and Anne Murphy, St. Thomas Aquinas High School; and Sandra Roseman, Roxbury Memorial High School.

*

On June 3, at a 4 o'clock ceremony at the Second Church in Newton, Miss Sigrid Robinson of the Open Shelf Department exchanged marriage vows with Mr John Michael Reddy. Preceded by six attendants, the bride, escorted to the altar by her father, wore ivory satin, en traine, fashioned with yoke of illusion and lace applique trimming the bodice. Layers of pleated tulle formed a coronet for her veil of imported French illusion, worn by her mother on her wedding day, and caught with fleurs d'amour to match the flowers in her small bouquet containing lillies of the valley and stephanotis. An outdoor reception at the home of the bride's parents followed the ceremony. One of the bride's attendants was Miss June Palladino, who had attended college with her and who is the daughter of Mrs Lydia Palladino of the Open Shelf Department. Mr and Mrs Reddy sailed June 9 from Quebec for a three months' trip to England and the Continent.

*

Miss Pauline M. Uccello, Cataloging and Classification for Reference and Research Services, was married to Mr James Puglisi on Sunday, June 4, at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, East Boston. The bride wore a beautiful ivory satin and lace gown. Her crown was lace and apple blossoms, and her veil was full length. She carried a bouquet of gladioli and orchids. The maid of honor, Miss Rose LaConca of Book Stack Service, wore a beautiful green marquisitte and satin gown. The bridesmaids wore lavender marquisitte gowns. All carried bouquets of yellow gladioli. The best man was the brother of the groom, Mr Caesar Puglisi. A reception followed at the Hotel Brunswick. Mr and Mrs Puglisi are on an automobile trip to Florida.

*

On Saturday morning, June 10, at eleven o'clock, Miss Marion Dowling was married to Mr William McWilliam in the Hyde Park Congregational Church. The bride looked lovely in a gown of pink organza and satin, with a veil that fell to the waist from a tiny pink hat. She carried a bouquet of white carnations. The bridesmaid was attired in a deeper shade of pink organza and satin and carried pink carnations. A reception was held immediately after the ceremony at the Norwood Lodge of Elks. The couple plan to spend their honeymoon motoring through Nova Scotia. Mrs McWilliam is employed in the Fine Arts Department.

*

On June 10 at 8 p.m. at the Beacon House, Brookline, Miss Ruth Riceman, Children's Librarian, Connolly Branch Library, became the bride of Mr Maurice Shire of New York City. After a wedding trip through New England and New York State, the Shires will live in Brooklyn, where Mrs Shire expects to resume her professional activities as a member of the staff of the Brooklyn Public Library.

*

On June 11, at 2:30 p.m. Miss Eleanora V. Fiorio, Book Purchasing Department, became the bride of Mr Gerald M. Goolkasian in St. Tarcisius' Church, Framingham. The ceremony was performed by Reverend Lorenz Kogy of the Holy Cross Parish in Watertown, and was followed by a reception in the Village Hall, Framingham. The bride wore a gown of white lace. Mr and Mrs Goolkasian plan to go to California for their wedding trip, and to make their home in Dorchester upon their return.

*

The semi-annual outing of the Fiction Committee was held Friday, June 9, following the regular weekly meeting of the Committee. During a long hot afternoon the committee slaved and toiled with unremitting energy while the more fortunate members of the staff refreshed themselves on the shores of the Atlantic, due to that very fine old New England custom of "heat relief" which comes when the temperature goes above 90°. After such an afternoon, the committee found cocktails served in the long, cool living room in Mrs Geraldine Altman's home in Brookline a very refreshing interlude before proceeding to The Abner Wheeler House for one of their famous dinners. Something new was added when the dinner suddenly turned into a "bon voyage" party for the chairman, Miss Edna G. Peck, with the appearance of a beautifully wrapped mystery parcel accompanied by a tuneful bon voyage cake. What was in the parcel? You'll never guess, - but it was blue nylon trimmed with tiny rosebuds and very beautiful. It would be nice to be able to say that the chairman replied to this token of good will by a few appropriate remarks. She didn't. She was too overcome -- and still is.

****

WE WELCOME BACK AFTER ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESSES

Miss Phyllis Adams, Book Stack Service.
Miss Anne M. Brennan, Branch Issue Department.
Mrs Margaret D. Butler, Periodical and Newspaper Department.
Miss Barbara Feeley, Business Office.
Mr William McGowan, Book Stack Service.
Mrs Margaret Morrissey, Book Purchasing Department.

****

MISS PECK ON MLA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Miss Edna G. Peck is a member of the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Library Association for the coming year.

****

THE DIRECTOR HONORED BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT

Mr Milton E. Lord was honored by the French Government on May 20, 1950, when he was awarded the Cross of the Legion of Honor by the French Consul in Boston, for his effort in behalf of cultural exchanges between France and the United States and his devotion to the traditional friendship between the two countries.

****

PUBLICATIONS BY STAFF MEMBERS

The Travelogue Storybook of the Nineteenth Century, by Virginia Haviland. Horn Book, March-April, May-June, July-August, 1950.

Those who missed the Caroline M. Hewins Lecture given at the New England Library Association meeting at Swampscott last fall by Miss Virginia Haviland, Branch Librarian of Phillips Brooks Branch Library, will find it in expanded form and with the addition of interesting illustrations in three installments in the Horn Book. The date for the publication of this Hewins Lecture in book form has been set for October 1, 1950.

*

Shall we join the ladies. Eamon McDonough. Library Journal, June 1, 1950. pp. 924-927.

Those librarians (male and female) who on occasion bemoan the over feminization of the profession will be interested in Mr McDonough's interesting survey of the use of men in branch library work. Based on a questionnaire sent by the author to fifty selected libraries, the article summarizes the returns, suggests some of the reasons for the poor numerical showing of his sex in branch library work, and concludes that it is up to the men to break down the prejudice where it exists to their use in this field.

****

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Mr Paul Cleary, an Extra Assistant, Cataloging and Classification for Reference and Research Services, won the Boston Globe Annual High School Publications Award. He won first prize for the magazine called "The Record". Mr Cleary is a senior at English High School and has been admitted to Harvard University.

*

Mr Robert J. Roper, Science and Technology Department, received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Education from Boston University School of Education.

*

Mr Walter R. Curley, Science and Technology Department, received the degree of Bachelor of Science from Boston College.

*

Mr Thomas O'Connor, Statistical Department, received the degree of Master of Arts in History from Boston College.

*

Miss Esther Leonard and Miss Elizabeth Todd, Teachers Department, have completed the Library Science course at Simmons.

*

Miss Adelaide Lockhart, Young People's Room, received a B.A. degree from Boston University.

*

Miss Eleanor McCarty, Teachers Department, was graduated from Emmanuel College June 6.

Editor's Note: Congratulations, also, to all others who are graduating from high schools, colleges, universities, business schools, and to those who are receiving advanced degrees.

****

ALUMNAE NOTES

It was pleasant to greet Miss Laura R. Gibbs, Chief of History Department, Emeritus, at the Massachusetts Library Association Meeting in Worcester.

*

Mr and Mrs Joseph Lynch have announced the birth of a daughter, Susan Marie, on May 25, 1950. Mrs Lynch is the former Rita Carr of the Director's Office.

*

Lieutenant, j.g. and Mrs James G. Downey have announced the birth of a daughter on June 9, 1950. Mrs Downey is the former Phyllis MacDonald of the Reference Division Office.

*

Mr David A. Shand conducted some numbers at Boston University night at POPS, Monday, June 5. He conducted the First Movement from the Unfinished Symphony from Schubert, and the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, No. 3, First Movement from Beethoven. Mr Shand was formerly employed in the Music Department and is now Associate Professor of Music at the University of Utah and Assistant Conductor of the Utah Symphony Orchestra.

*

Miss Alice M. Jordan, preparing to leave for her summer home on Grand Manan, came in to the Young People's Room recently to

wish the staff a happy summer.

*

Mr and Mrs Harold Tibets of Dorchester announce the birth of a daughter, Veronica Nan, born on May 11. Mrs Tibets (Veronica) formerly worked in Book Stack Service.

*

On Sunday, June 11, at 4 o'clock, in St. Joseph's Church, Amesbury, Massachusetts, Miss Natalie Herman, formerly of Book Stack Service, was married to Mr Alton Snyder of Amesbury. The bride looked beautiful in a lovely gown she had made herself. The gown of white taffeta, overlaid with lace, had a portrait neckline, outlined with seed pearls and white satin rosettes. The finger-tip veil had a coronet of white satin studded with pearls. The maid of honor was her sister, Miss Patricia Herman, who wore a gown of blue organdy, an organdy picture hat, and carried a bouquet of red snapdragons. The reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, Indian Creek Farm, Pleasant Valley, Amesbury. A large group of Natalie's friends from the Library attended.

****

INTERESTING ITEMS

A Branch of the Milwaukee Public Library has a Louisa May Alcott for a patron.

*

The thing to remember about closing time is how you feel in other institutions when they close while you're there. A library should close promptly and methodically, but tactfully. Library aides should remain at last minute clean up jobs until a minute past closing time.

--Tee-Pee, Toledo

****

MAY THIRTIETH OUTING

Plans had been made for the first outing of the season to take place at Riverside on May thirtieth, but apparently the weatherman had not been consulted in advance, and turned out to be most uncooperative. The day was so unsettled that the outing was cancelled. Those hardy souls who came, hoping, adjourned to a movie instead. Better luck next time!

****

BON VOYAGE!!!

Miss Ethel Kimball, Allston Branch Library, will spend two months abroad this summer, including stopovers in England, Scotland, France, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, and Holland. She has received an invitation from a former patron at Allston Branch Library, to spend some time with her. Accompanying Miss Kimball on part of her trip will be Miss Alice Buckley, former Children's Librarian and now High School Librarian at East Boston High School.

*

Miss Edna G. Peck, Miss Margaret A. Morgan, and Miss A. Virginia Haviland will sail on July 12 to spend three weeks motoring through England, Scotland and Wales, attending the Eisteddfod Musical Festival (National) at Caerphilly, Wales. Two weeks following that will be spent in Paris, Florence, Milan, and attending the Passion Play at Oberammergau.

Editor's Note: The response to our specially marked outline asking for information on foreign travel planned for this summer was limited to the information given above. Bon Voyage to all others who are traveling abroad, or at home, during vacations this year!

****

ARNAVETS

The Annual Spring Dinner of The Arnavets was held in the Grill Room of the Copley Square Hotel on May 24. The steak dinner was personally supervised by Mr Cichette, the genial manager of functions of the hotel, and it was enthusiastically enjoyed by the group which was one of the largest gatherings ever of the veterans of the Library.

Comrades John Tuley, John McNally, Frank Myers, Bernard Doherty, and Michael Venezia were the committee in charge of the party.

Comrades Martin Waters and Kenneth Richards displayed their virtuosity on the piano and saxophone, respectively; Comrades Bob Williams and Michael Venezia amused everyone with their songs and stories; and all members joined in a community sing, thanks to the energy of Comrade Green.

One great pleasure of the evening was to offer Comrades Sarah W. Flannery and Samuel Green best wishes and fullest cooperation in their new positions.

****

THE NINTH ANNUAL INSTITUTE OF LABOR

The Committee on Education of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor invited Mrs Helen F. Hirson to speak on the services of the Boston Public Library to trade unions, at the Ninth Annual Institute of Labor, June 9 - 11, in Amherst. Mrs Hirson also distributed mimeographed copies of a booklist prepared especially for the panel discussions on such subjects as co-operative housing, public power, social security, health insurance, and taxation.

As the theme of the Institute was Labor's Political Objectives in the 1950 Election, several of the speakers were state Representatives, including Hon. James O'Dea, Hon. Maurice Fitzgerald, Hon. Mario Umana, Hon. Daniel J. Rudsten, Hon. Harold Putnam. Other speakers holding government office were Mr C. Ely Wickham, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Mr Sumner R. Parker, Production and Marketing Administration; Mr Joseph P. Healey, Special Commission on Taxation; Mr John J. Del Monte, Commissioner of Labor and Industries; and Mr Thomas H. Eliot, Special Commission on the Structure of the State Government, the last three commissions of Massachusetts. The scope of the discussions was world wide, ranging from Massachusetts problems to the Federal Brannan Plan to our foreign policy in Europe and China.

Many of the delegates expressed their appreciation of the book exhibit and the year-round services of the Boston Public Library.

****

BASEBALL AND THE BPL

The Red Sox-Cleveland night game scheduled for June 1, for which 100 tickets had been bought by Association members and friends, was rained out. But, the baseball spirit still runs high at the BPL; witness, the contract recently signed by two ardent Red Sox fans, Mr Donald L. Newman, Office of Records, Files, Statistics, and Mr Paul Smith, Business Office:

(SEAL)

OFFICIAL RED SOX CONTRACT

I, Donald Newman, the party of the first part, being of sound(????) mind, do hereby agree that I will not criticize Vern Stephens, if one Paul Smith, the party of the second part, being of equally sound (????) mind, will agree not to criticize Ted Williams.

SIGNED Paul W. Smith
Donald L. Newman

June 1, 1950

Witness John W. Tuley
Patrick O. Murtagh

Penalty for breaking above contract is 1 frappe.

Editor's Note: We are told that the person who typed the original contract inserted the (????)s.

****

LETTER RECEIVED AT MATTAPAN BRANCH LIBRARY

Dear Librarian:

I thank you for sending my lost library card, and to whoever turned the card into your library I wish to thank him also.

Furthermore I want to congratulate your library and Massachusetts public-educational system for this thoughtful act of public morality.

Yours sincerely,

Y. Nakagawa
599 Columbus Avenue
Boston 18, Mass.

****

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The regular May business meeting of the Association held on May 26, was efficiently conducted by the Vice President, Miss Ruth Cannell, in the absence of the President. The membership is to be congratulated on an excellent attendance. A high light of the meeting was the announcement of the successful culmination on the part of the BPLPSA and the BPLEBA, Inc. of the project to reimburse the losses to those staff members whose pay was stolen on December 23, 1949. A special vote of thanks was extended to Mr Sidney Weinberg and Mr Louis Polishook, Association members, for their important part in this outstanding piece of work. Certain routine procedures remain to be taken care of before the people actually receive the money. Another interesting feature of the meeting was the reports of three special committees: On In-Service Training; on Personnel Service Ratings; and on Sabbatical Leaves of Absence. These reports merit the special consideration of all Association members who now have an opportunity to study. Special thanks should go to each chairman and her committee for an outstanding contribution to the vitality of the Association's activities. As you re-read these reports in this issue, remember, they do not constitute the final word on the subjects under discussion, but are something upon which to base discussion. Your comments on the reports will be welcomed by the committee chairmen or by the Executive Board.

*

A few days ago you received a notice regarding the BPLPSA annual POPS Party. At first glance the date this year -- July 1 -- may seem an unfortunate choice. It is the Saturday evening before the long holiday week end. On the other hand it has its good points. It is the last POPS of the season. No doubt there are many people who had hoped to get to POPS more often during the season but for one reason or another had found it impossible. This will provide a wonderful opportunity to make up for any lost opportunities. If you are to be away for the holiday, how about interesting your friends in tickets? The Association has purchased two hundred tickets. We make a profit, exclusive of tax, of twenty cents per ticket. If the tickets were all sold it would mean forty dollars added to our finances. This is one of the few opportunities we have to add to our ever-receptive treasury. The sale of the tickets depends exclusively on individual Association members. Surely 432 people (the number of members, according to the report of the Membership Committee at the May business meeting) can dispose of 200 tickets with a minimum of effort.

*

The Executive Board has invited the following Association members to serve on the Nominating Committee for the current year:

Mr Edward X. Casey, Cataloging and Classification for Reference and Research Services

Miss Mary T. Crowe, West Roxbury Branch Library

Mr Samuel Green, Business Office

Miss Rosalie Lang, General Reference Department

Mrs Grace B. Laughlin, Branch Issue Department

*

It may be of interest to Association members to know that there was recently received a questionnaire from SORT headquarters relative to cooperative administrative activities. This questionnaire covered such topics as administrative committees, staff organization committees, relationship between the Chief Librarian and the staff organization, relationship between the governing body (Board of Trustees) and the staff organization, the role of the staff organization bulletin in staff organization activities. Each of these topics was covered by a series of specific questions. The Executive Board answered this questionnaire and returned it promptly. A letter from SORT indicated that these questionnaires were sent to the administrative offices and to staff organizations of all libraries where such organizations are active. No doubt the results of this questionnaire will be published in a forthcoming issue of SORT. The results should be interesting if all administrative offices and staff organizations

approached were conscientious in their replies.

*

According to the SORT constitution (article IV, Section 3) "Representation and voting power at the annual meeting shall be on the basis of one for the first fifty members or fraction thereof and one additional for each 100 or major fraction (51) thereof. No organization shall be entitled to more than five delegates".

This means that the BPLPSA may send the maximum number of delegates to represent our Association at the SORT meetings at the 1950 ALA Conference. The following Association members have been invited to act as BPLPSA representatives at Cleveland. They will cast the vote for our Association in the annual elections and will help man the SORT booth:

Mrs Iphigenia K. Fillios, West Roxbury Branch Library
Mrs Evelyn Green, Jamaica Plain Branch Library
Miss Ruth M. Hayes, Neponset Branch Library
Miss Elvira J. Lavorgna, Fine Arts Department
Mr Thomas J. Manning, Exhibits Office

*

In the April issue of The Question Mark it was noted that there were rumors that this summer might bring forth another moonlight sail. Based on this rumor, the Entertainment Committee made a verbal inquiry among the younger members of the Association concerning their reactions to such a proposal. While it was impossible to contact every individual of the younger group, the consensus of opinion among those contacted was that a moonlight sail was not especially appealing since last year there was a strong evidence of much drinking on the part of other groups on the evening of the Association party. This comment does not reflect a "holier-than-thou" attitude but shows a nice sense of discrimination on the part of the younger members of the staff. They are to be commended on their decision. There will be no moonlight sail sponsored by the BPLPSA during the summer of 1950.

****

MARY U. NICHOLS BOOK PRIZE AWARDS

The second presentation of the MARY U. NICHOLS BOOK PRIZES was made on Thursday evening, June 8 at the North End Branch Library. In spite of the heat, and other community events, a good number of people attended the program.

The two young people to receive the awards for 1950 were Miss Ethel Grant and Mr Frank DiMasi. Mr Milton E. Lord, Director, presented to Miss Grant a copy of "The Oxford Book of English Verse" and to Mr DiMasi "The Complete Works of Shakespeare", edited by Kittredge.

The musical portion of the program was under the direction of Father Stephen, O.F.M. of the Christopher Columbus Catholic High School. It included a piano solo by Mrs Ann Umana, an aria from Puccini's "Tosca" by Miss Jennie Addesa, and a duet by George and Ann McGovern.

Reverend Albert W. Low, Assistant Superintendent of Diocesan Schools, spoke briefly of the work of the Christopher Columbus School. In keeping with Miss Stimson's work on the Ducal Palace Model, color slides of Venice were shown. Explanatory comments were made by Mrs Geraldine Herrick from Professor Hersey's lecture on Venice, which he so graciously lent with his beautiful slides. Mrs Rose Giella projected the slides. Mr John Scanga served as chairman.

Refreshments were served at the close of the program.

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MATERIAL OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

Biblio-shock therapy. Charles I. Glicksburg. Wilson Library Bulletin, June, 1950. pp. 746-747.

Professor Glicksburg describes a technique used occasionally by him in his college classes to stimulate independent reading on the part of his students which might with discretion be employed by librarians to stimulate the reading tastes of potentially adventurous readers with tastes a cut above the average best sellers.

Poet and merchant head up plan to save 13 country town libraries. Frances Burns. The Boston Sunday Globe, June 11, 1950. p. 6-A.

This is an excellent, illustrated account of the Conway Plan described by Archibald MacLeish at the recent MLA Conference held in Worcester which is reported fully elsewhere in this issue.

Issues in library education. A report of the Conference on Library Education. Harold Lancour, editor. 1949.

Sponsored by the Council of National Library Associations, this report is concerned with discussions and recommendations concerning various fundamental issues facing the profession in a period of unparalleled changes in the patterns of education for librarianship.

What's wrong with our public libraries. Jack Harrison Pollock. Woman's Home Companion, May, 1950. p. 35.

This excellent, straight-from-the-shoulder article is significant for being the first report in a popular magazine of the critical conclusions of the Public Library Inquiry. Although the author complains that in general library public relations are so poor that even when a library is equipped to offer services other than lending books most people don't know about it, instigating such an article was good public relations on the part of some library group or individual. More such publicity is needed in media of this nature to reach a mass audience, and to acquaint the voting public with the needs of libraries throughout the country. How badly it is needed is illustrated by the comment of one congressman recently, after the defeat of the Library Demonstration Bill, that not one of his constituents had requested him to support the bill. Librarians might well heed the suggestion in the Library Journal's editorial in the May 1 issue suggesting that readers thank Mr Pollock for his fine article.

The social attitudes of librarians and the selection of books on social issues. Clyde Haselden. The Library Quarterly, April, 1950. pp. 127-135.

Based on a questionnaire distributed to 175 libraries selected on a nationwide basis, the author encouragingly deduces from the returns that, while the attitudes and points of view of librarians range from the most radical to the most reactionary, they are in the main largely extraneous to library administration, especially in book selection policies. The findings further support the author's deductions that library policy is to follow the public demand, and that the private predilections of the librarians remain irrelevant.

Enoch Pratt holds 2nd atomic energy institute. Library Journal, June 1, 1950. pp. 934-936.

Enoch Pratt Library "hits the jackpot" of public interest again with its second, follow-up institute on peace time uses of atomic energy. The success of the program as reported in this article by the Library's Chief of Exhibits, illustrates the good public relations which can be promoted by a thoroughly organized, carefully coordinated, and well publicized program of wide public interest.

L. S. M.

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Practicing the preaching. E. H. Friermood. Horn Book, March-April, 1950. pp. 68-72.

In these days of day-by-day evidence of the diminishing interest in reading by children as they become television sitters, this account of an intelligent program of exposure to books in the development of one child's reading tastes by a former children's librarian of the Public Library of Dayton, Ohio, sounds an encouraging note to all children's librarians. Although this program was undertaken by a former children's librarian with her own daughter, it is no less applicable to any parent who is desirous of instilling a love of reading in his child, and so the detailed account of the steps taken and the books used should be of value not only to librarians in their contacts with parents but also to parents themselves.

E. L.

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Trial by Kinsey. Cornelia Otis Skinner. The New Yorker, May 27, 1950.

Inasmuch as the Kinsey Reports have had such widespread publicity, we may be excused if we include in this column a suggestion that much pleasure may be had

by reading this article.
The Congressional Record, March 8, 1950. pp. 3164-3187.
Here is included the debate on The Library Demonstration Bill, which was defeated by three votes. PUBLIC LIBRARIES (March 1950) says of this: "All in all, librarians and trustees should take this debate as 'required reading' if they are (1) to understand just what the Demonstration bill ran into in Congress and (2) to contribute their own best judgment as to how fuller library coverage of the United States, stronger library service, can be achieved." A copy is in the files of the Publications Committee, for those interested in reading it.

S. M. U.

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MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AT WORCESTER May 17, 1950

Editor's Note:
The individuals who had been asked to report the morning session were unable to do so. Consequently, the notes have been prepared by the Editor. The one who was to report the talk by Esther Forbes was present and willing but Miss Forbes was ill and no substitute speaker was provided. The afternoon session has been reported by Mrs Marjorie G. Bouquet.

MORNING SESSION

The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Library Association, held in Worcester on Wednesday, May 17, was outstanding. The weather was ideal; the time schedule was adhered to rigidly; the attendance was most gratifying; the food left nothing to be desired; the accommodations were adequate; and, most important of all, speakers of unusually high calibre gave thought-provoking and informative talks. The staff of the Worcester Public Library was most cordial and contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the day when, following the luncheon, they presented a skit: "1864: or a Tale of Historical Fact with Added Hysteria."

His Honor Andrew B. Holmstrom, Mayor of Worcester, brought greetings to the Association at the opening of the morning session.

Although originally scheduled to be the second speaker of the morning, Mr Archibald MacLeish was given first place on the program in order that he might leave for another engagement at eleven o'clock. Speaking on "Library Co-operation: The Conway Demonstration", he painted a picture of the limitations in service which for many years have been accepted as inevitable in libraries in small towns, and outlined a plan to improve this situation by co-operation among libraries in a district.

In his introductory remarks he expressed his belief that the great fundamental change, the revolutionary change, which not all of us recognize, is the change from books as the sole concern of libraries to a vast ocean of printed matter, all of it potentially important to scholarship, and the addition of other materials -- films, photographs, illustrated materials, sound recordings -- which we in the library still rather look askance upon and deal with in a casual way as not directly our concern. The library problem comes down to this: There is not available in this country -- or in the world -- the amount of money needed to run even the Library of Congress as a central national library serving the people of the United States and to give them the kind of library service that should be given. It is not a question of not enough money to do what should be done now; there is not enough money foreseeable. This situation led librarians some years ago to begin to consider ways and means whereby the great libraries of the world might do co-operatively what each could not do alone. One result was the Farmington Plan -- to put into some library somewhere in the United States one copy of every piece of important printed material no matter where published in the world. No one library could do it alone, but it could be done by dividing the responsibility among great libraries. In time it will be possible to realize that dream.

The problem in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was considered from the point of view of the Field Memorial Library in Conway. Like other libraries in small towns, it was not beginning to give the service that should be given. The Trustees were faced with the problem of presenting to Mr Marshall Field, grandson

of the original Marshall Field who gave the library in memory of his father and mother, a budget which would make sense and would furnish adequate library service to the people of the town. The budget prepared could not be justified and the service, even at that, would not be adequate. The next step was to consider something in conjunction with other libraries in neighboring towns. A meeting was planned for library representatives from Deerfield, South Deerfield, the two Shelbournes, Greenfield, Ashville, Whately, etc. Out of this came the proposal that the library in Conway be established as a center which would be adequate for the business of running a federated operation. With the aid of the Division of Public Libraries, a budget was prepared which would provide for one good adult librarian, one good children's librarian, a clerk-stenographer, who could also drive an automobile, funds for books, records, films, a projector; the whole to be available for the period of two years. After going through all the channels, ALA, etc., the figure finally submitted was $36,000 for two years. After consideration, Mr Field has consented to make the gift, if that is what the people of the town want. By June 15, the final returns from the towns should be in, signifying whether they wish to join the plan. Reluctance on the part of some may seem strange, but the question in the minds of trustees is: What happens at the end of two years? If the demonstration is a success, must town selectmen be approached to take over?

At this point the possibility of State Aid was introduced by Mr MacLeish, who recognizes that there is opposition throughout the Commonwealth to the acceptance of State Aid, if it were available. How long such opposition will persist is unpredictable, but it would seem that eventually State Aid would be considered desirable. Mr MacLeish outlined briefly what has been happening in New York State, where within the last few weeks there has been passed a piece of legislation based on recommendations of a Committee appointed by the Governor. On the committee was a large representation of trustees with the good sound, commonsense of the business community. The committee is analogous to the one which has functioned in the State of Massachusetts, the basic difference being that the New York Committee was appointed by the Governor and reported to him. It was Mr MacLeish's wish that there could be in Massachusetts a Committee appointed by the Governor which would investigate State Aid and familiarize itself with legislation in other states. If not, at the end of two years, with no aid from the Commonwealth, the Conway Demonstration will be faced with a difficult problem. In spite of this, the proposal seems a decidedly worthwhile undertaking.

In answering questions, Mr MacLeish brought out further that in Conway there will be an Advisory Committee set up by the collaborating towns, and that the co-operation Conway will be able to give to neighboring towns will depend upon what the member towns want. It is hoped that they will desire to pool the purchasing of books though not their selection; whether there would be a union catalog is a question. The chief usefulness of trained personnel would be that they would spend their time on a rotating basis among the member libraries, working directly with children, with adult groups, going to schools, and making the kind of positive contribution which libraries can make when they are so minded and that some believe librarians ought to make. The ideal would be for member libraries to retain their autonomy, control, and integrity, but by co-operation be able to give better and more effective service.

In answer to a question as to whether such an organization on a purely regional basis, using the largest library in the area as a center, had been considered, Mr MacLeish said that it had not been considered but that it certainly would be a useful economy.

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Mr Milton E. Lord, President of the American Library Association, expressed pleasure in being present to personally convey the cordial greetings of the National Association to this state association on the occasion of its annual meeting. This is one of the duties of the presidency which cannot always be performed in person but which frequently must take the form of a telegram sent out from ALA headquarters.

Mr Lord's topic, "Library Co-operation: A Proposal for the Integration on Librarians on a State and Local Level", is one

which is of interest to all Association members. He feels that one of the important considerations facing ALA is the relationship of the national association to state associations. His predecessor brought out clearly in a presidential address the need for strengthening of activities at the state and local level throughout the United States, and made a strong statement that we need three things:

1. More citizen participation particularly in support of state associations' programs
2. Continuity of leadership through an executive secretary
3. Increased financial support.

His suggestion that the ALA might well take from its endowment funds of $2,000,000 the sum of $1,000,000 ($100,000 for each of 10 years) for the strengthening of associations' work has not yet been acted upon.

Mr Lord next pointed out that it is understood that there will be presented in the final report of the PUBLIC LIBRARY INQUIRY consideration of the strengthening of library organization, both of libraries and of librarians, throughout the country; that one of the striking points to be presented in that report will be probably the statement that the weakest spot in our organization, either of libraries or of librarians, is at the state level. It varies, of course, from state to state. Some states, like Massachusetts, have strong organizations. In the case of ALA, it is a very powerful library organization -- the most powerful organization by far in the whole world. It works on an international scale and those at home frequently wonder as to how direct their relationship with it is. ALA has a practice of appointing every half dozen years a committee to survey its activities and to recommend changes of importance. The Fourth Activities Committee report, made after two years' work, also brought out the fact that there is a relationship which is not as close as it should be between the librarians spread throughout the country and the national association. It went so far as to propose that the ALA be broken down into two forms of organization, substantive and functional. If you joined the ALA at one point you would be in the ALA in terms of the type of library in which you were employed (public, university, scholarly or special library), in terms of your interest as a cataloger, children's worker, etc., and you would also be in it in a geographical chapter, if one existed at the state or local level.

Recently Mr Lord presided at a conference of the presidents or chairmen, and presidents elect of all the national library groups in the United States. Among them were the Medical Library Association, Association of Law Libraries, Theater Library Association, etc., of the so-called Special Libraries Group; the Association of College and Reference Libraries, Divisions of ALA -- Catalogers, Young People, Trustees, Public Libraries, etc. -- Catholic Library Association, Special Libraries Association, Association of American Library Schools, Association of State Libraries, Association of Research Libraries, etc., of the functional interests group. Many had felt for a long time that there has not been a meeting ground upon which they could have a common approach to common problems. The Council of National Library Associations had been formed some years ago in response to this need for a common ground but it lacked strength of accomplishment. The purpose of the recent meeting was the exploration of the relationship of ALA to these groups. It was expected that no dividend would come out of the meeting; it was called just to provide a forum of discussion on neutral grounds. However, those present expressed a definite interest in the possibility of a federation of library associations.

In the state of Massachusetts there are a great many different library groups. These represent the source of enormous strengths which have not yet been tapped in co-ordinated form for the benefit of libraries and librarianship in Massachusetts. Nothing should be done to take away from the strength of these groups. While MLA is made up substantially of people in the public library field, it does not represent necessarily all librarians or library interests in the state.

As an example of weak and strong library associations, the situation in Washington, D.C. was pointed out, where the District of Columbia Library Association is relatively weak and the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Special Libraries Association is a very strong functioning group. Attention was called, also, to the Boston Chapter,

Special Libraries Association, which is a live, virile group, meeting monthly.

The situation in Massachusetts should be faced up to; whether on a geographic basis or a functional basis matters little. Perhaps the wisest approach may be to let something evolve, as it must naturally evolve, in terms of a member association. The united approach may come through State Aid. The New York State success has come after approximately five years of action, which started out in large part as an activity of the New York Library Association and then moved on to the basis of enlightened citizen interest spearheaded by the Trustees' Group. The background work in Massachusetts was done a few years ago, but has had to be left in abeyance. Perhaps a definite approach should now be made through a union of some sort, a federation of existing library groups -- not dissipating any of them, not disturbing any of them, but uniting efforts in a manner to bring a far more effective support to these problems. It can come into being almost spontaneously when the problem of State Aid is approached further. In conclusion Mr Lord stressed the need of action for relating in a true manner the existing groups of libraries with the view of giving increased support to our larger library interests and expressed the hope that this can be done in terms of a live issue which can provide a normal basis for such co-operation.

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The President announced that all those attending the meeting were cordially invited to visit the Worcester Public Library and Clark University where Open House was being held.

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Following a short recess, the business meeting was called to order by the President, Mr John D. Kelley. The report of the last meeting was read by the secretary, Miss Charlotte K. Bausman, and was accepted. Miss Flynn reported for the Education Committee, which had met and interviewed seven candidates for the scholarship award. The Committee was happy to announce that Miss Barbara Jean Stratton of Springfield has been awarded the scholarship for study at Simmons College. She had served five years as a page in a branch library. The alternate is Miss Joyce Owens of Taunton, who has been employed for two years in the Children's Room of the Taunton Public Library.

In the absence of the chairman, Mr Philip McNiff, the report of the Legislative Committee was read by the secretary. The committee had been concerned with two items of business -- the censorship bill and libraries as a part of community surveys made by non-library agencies. On Tuesday, February 21, 1950, House 1971 on censorship was given a hearing before the Legal Affairs Committee. No one spoke in favor of it; 7 against it. The Association was represented by Mr Kelley and Mr McNiff. This legislation was not enacted. By resolution approved at the last meeting the matter of libraries as a part of community surveys made by non- library agencies was referred to the Legislative Committee. It was the opinion of the committee that a considerable amount of work must be done before contacting a survey-making agency. Caution in making a survey might well save future embarrassment. All is not well with libraries and it may be true that libraries are getting from surveying agencies what they may well merit because of lack of progressive administration and initiative. The proposed resolution would keep several committees busy for a long time and would involve a complete appraisal of personnel procedures, especially work assignments of professional librarians, legal status of trustees, etc. This would be a monumental task of dubious value. Survey-making agencies should not be blamed for the inability of librarians to convince trustees of the importance of library work. The Committee concluded that this job cannot be turned over to an outside agency.

The President announced that the Inter-library Loan Committee had submitted a lengthy report and recommendations for changes in the inter-library loan system which has been in operation in this state. Because of the importance of the matter, the Committee requested that before it is discussed in an open meeting it be printed and then taken up at the next regular business meeting of the Association. It was submitted as a report of progress.

Miss Gertrude Callahan reported for the By-Laws Committee. With certification becoming a law, it is no longer necessary to

have a committee on Library Standards. According to the By-Laws members must be notified in writing 30 days in advance of a vote on changes in the constitution or By-Laws. Through no fault of any individual, notices were not sent out the necessary 30 days in advance of this meeting. Therefore, action had to be postponed until the next regular meeting of the Association.

In the temporary absence of Mr Edward C. Perry, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, the report was read by the Secretary. The newly elected officers are:

President: Miss Louise B. Day
Lynn Public Library
Vice President: Miss Catharine M. Yerxa
Watertown Free Public Library
Secretary: Miss Mary Silva
Division of Public Libraries
Treasurer: Miss Lucille Wickersham
City Library Association, Springfield
Archivist: Mr Galen W. Hill
Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy

A full report of all committees will be published in the next issue of the MLA Bulletin.

Under the heading of new business, Miss Edna Phillips read a resolution that the Massachusetts Library Association at its annual meeting in Worcester on May 17, 1950, because of its deep interest in education and intercultural relations, urge the Massachusetts members of Congress to consider favorably and to work for the passage of S2496, a bill to authorize contribution to the CARE UNESCO Book Fund program of the sum of $1,389,144.93, being the amount of money placed in trust in the United States Treasury by conscientious objectors in World War II, who desire that it shall be used for humanitarian purposes. On motion duly made and seconded the resolution was adopted.

With fitting remarks concerning the capabilities of the incoming president, Mr Kelley passed over to Miss Day the gavel, symbol of the office. The new president said that she was starting out by asking for the help of the Association. She read one short sentence from the Constitution, which states the object of the Association: "Its object shall be to promote library service and the profession of librarianship in the State of Massachusetts." This broad statement was interpreted to include every kind of library from college and special to public, from the smallest to the largest, and all types of librarians. She stated that the Executive Board for the coming year is in process of formation and solicited suggestions for main objectives for this year. Before closing the meeting, Miss Day asked Miss Catharine M. Yerxa to stand.

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Guests of honor at the luncheon were Mr Robert K. Shaw, retired Librarian of the Worcester Public Library, and Mrs Shaw. Mr Thurston Taylor, the present Librarian, brought the regrets of Miss Esther Forbes who was unable to be present because of serious illness. Mr Taylor expressed the wish that it might have been possible to entertain at tea at the library, but because of limited facilities this had not been possible. He introduced the members of the cast of the skit.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Those present had the pleasure of hearing Mrs Vera Michaeles Dean, Research Director of the Foreign Policy Association and author of U.S. and Russia, Four Cornerstones of Peace, etc., who was introduced by the President, Mr John D. Kelley. The Russian-born Radcliffe graduate stated the aim of the Foreign Policy Association as "public service of an objective character on international affairs" and invited comments from librarians.

Mrs Dean deplored the McCarthy investigation, which she claimed had made a few people the target of loose-thinking in many directions. She pointed out how dangerous it is for people who can just barely read headlines or listen to the radio to feel that they know what is going on in the complicated international scene. She feels that intellectuals have a tremendous responsibility not to participate in the betrayal of our heritage of freedom and reminded the audience that the concentration camp came late in Germany and was preceded by a period of intimidation such as this.

According to psychiatrists our feeling of frustration at the sight of what happened to American policy in China is natural. It might have turned into a war to

atomize Russia, but, instead, certain individuals have taken advantage of congressional immunity to atomize the reputations of people long experienced in the Far East. We are all at fault in building up Asia into a never-never land in our minds and in thinking that a few newspapers could serve to carry us through a period like the French Revolution. Actually the present investigations are obscuring the fact that the United States is engaged in an arduous review of foreign policy from which we must emerge with a more realistic, if less pleasant, policy.

Despite her admonitions, Mrs Dean said that we have no need for sackcloth and ashes. We have come a long way in the past few years in accepting the view, thought fantastic before 1939, that the U.S. must participate in world affairs continuously in time of peace. To sell the UN to the American people, the idea had to be oversold. Though the UN is the cornerstone of our foreign policy according to official speeches, as an automatic reflex in a transition period, we act unilaterally or bilaterally when our interests are affected. Nations will have to learn to give up sovereignity in order to gain defense. We shall have to integrate ourselves with other nations, and may have not only to arm Western Europe but to provide the manpower.

The great issues of the London Conferences are: (1) What shall we do for Western Europe after the Marshall Plan? and (2) How to close the dollar gap? It may be that we shall have to give up many of our export markets and find means of adjustment in our economy for the displaced workers and for the affected manufacturers. We shall also have to educate Americans to welcome imports.

If we do not concentrate on helping Europe, poverty and starvation will win for Russia without a shot. The cracks in Europe have been merely plastered over, and explosive forces may burst out in France, Italy, or Western Germany. Mrs Dean advises encouraging Labor all over the world as the strongest guarantee against Communism, as it has proven in England.

We shall rue the day we tried to hold the line in Asia in Indo-China, the last remnant of the colonies. It would have been better to make a stand in India, or the Dutch East Indies, where colonial administration was at its best, if we wished to uphold colonialism anywhere. Should we recognize Communism in China? Mrs Dean agrees with Dulles that nothing was so effective in consolidating Russian power as non-recognition for 16 years. Yet now we are paralyzed in Asia because leaders are open to accusation as Communists.

Revolutionary forces at work in Asia are to a large extent the result of the influence of American missionaries, businessmen, etc., who did not realize that their efforts, if successful, must mean a complete changing of the political and economic structure of Asia. We should take the helm of the revolutionary changes we have started and help backward people realize some of their aspirations. Before technological changes can be introduced, however, we must think of health, nutrition, and education. In Africa color is added to the problem. If White supremacy rules Africa, Russia won't have to lift a finger because the Blacks will rise to oust the Whites. We cannot expect backward peoples to be more tolerant than we are.

What should be our attitude toward Communism and Russia? We should first of all get rid of our fear of Russia, and we should stop grossly overestimating her influence. Russia became the headquarters of Communism by an accident of destiny, and Communism would remain though Russia were destroyed. We should understand that people will turn to any country which can recognize their latent needs and take them out of their plight. Are we opposed to land reforms, separation of church and state, industrialization of backward countries? Would we not have sponsored these same reforms if we got there first? We must affirm our belief in what should be done in countries and let our own concept of what the majority of American people think is a decent way of life be our guide. And we must impress on other peoples our respect for their needs and aspiration. "To thine own self be true; thou cannot then be false to any man."

In the question period Mrs Dean gave the reasons why she thought Communism had gained ground in France after the war and cast some doubt on the satisfactory solution of the Ruhr problem if the proposal which the French made in order to draw attention to their difficulties is rushed through by overzealous Americans and

Britons. She foresees the return of the powerful cartels with Nazi collaborators playing their customary role in big industry with the support of certain French industrialists of the old school.

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CARE

The Special Committee for CARE is kept quite busy thanking you people for your generous support and also receiving thankful expressions from recipients of CARE packages. We are glad to be so busy. It gives us added incentive to stimulate you toward further giving. Please accept our praise for all contributions.

If all of you could know the warm, personal gratitude as expressed to one of the Committee members by her house guests from the Netherlands, you would be, indeed, impressed. They are so openly appreciative of America's gestures toward them. And so are the many other CARE-supported countries in all parts of the world. So for them let's continue giving to CARE. Just think -- a CARE-less person abroad is one not receiving CARE's benefits; a CARE-less person in America is one who doesn't care. Let's have fewer and fewer "careless" people.

Committee for CARE

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SOUTH BOSTON BRANCH LIBRARY RE-OPENS

At the new quarters of the South Boston Branch Library on the ground floor in the premises located at 386-388 West Broadway, South Boston, Open House will be held on Thursday afternoon, June 15, 1950.

Open since June 12, 1950, the new quarters provide for a section for adults and one for children. The children's area can be separated from the adults' section by means of a curtain, which makes possible the showing of motion pictures and story-telling for the children without disrupting service to adult readers.

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BRANCH NOTES

Connolly

During the month of May, while the circus was in town, the Children's Room featured a Reading Carnival. Each member's name was inscribed on a tag which was pinned to the chart that showed the progress of the reader. As the child read and reported on the assigned books, his or her name tag was advanced through the various stages of circus performers. They started as clowns then became lion tamers, acrobats, jugglers, bare-back riders, dancers, etc., to the final goal - that of ringmaster. Most of the sixty members have reached the final column and have been awarded special bookmarks. The children are now looking forward to joining the Summer Reading Club; and receiving the very attractive reading list THROUGH THE OPEN GATE.

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A special feature for the month of graduations is a display which has attracted attention among students as well as parents. The school catalogs with their wealth of information on requirements, tuition, and courses of study, have been the source of serious study among high school graduates. An increased use in the vocational pamphlets has been stimulated by school assignments in fields of particular interest to individuals who might be definite or otherwise about their careers.

Jamaica Plain

On display currently is an exhibit of oil paintings and a book selection of Americana. The Allied Wallpaper Company of Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, generously donated a length of wallpaper depicting scenes of Williamsburg, Virginia, with which to make a poster as a background for the display. The oil paintings of the White Mountains and Florida were graciously lent by Mrs E. Sylvia of Warner, New Hampshire. All of these paintings are of rural scenes which tend to carry out the trend of the poster.

Phillips Brooks

The FRIENDS OF THE PHILLIPS BROOKS BRANCH LIBRARY again gathered in anniversary celebration at their local library when they observed its nineteenth birthday

on Thursday evening, May 25.

Mr John Quincy Adams, speaker of the evening and a well-known authority on Phillips Brooks, gave a most inspired talk on The Message of Phillips Brooks. Also on the program were "thank-you's" for the association's gifts of a moving picture projector and record player, expressed by two "Young Friends" who spoke informally on what the film program and the music appreciation hours have meant to groups of young people here. This concluded with the playing of Haydn's "Toy Symphony," which was the first record given to this library.

In the social period which followed, a committee of women served the large gathering punch and home-made cakes, including two handsome birthday cakes.

Washington Village

Lilacs and violets breathed a fragrant welcome to Mrs Georgia Crampton of Minnesota, guest lecturer on Monday evening, May 22, 1950. Mrs Crampton planned to give a series of weekly talks on Contemporary Affairs for as long as she still remained in Boston. We were fortunate to have had her for two stimulating meetings, with Mr Crampton being impressed into admirable service for the second one. The procedure followed was a marshalled, swiftly-moving one -- no time for dilatoriness or dreaming! Mrs Crampton, a young, vivid, informed personality gave first a brisk resume of two or three highlights of the week. This was accomplished almost simultaneously with a written quiz, consisting of brief identifications of five or six words or names outstanding in the news -- just for the sole, unembarrassed information of and guide to the examinee regarding his status in the realm of Current Events. Then came the main topic for the session, which happened to be England under socialism, its problems, achievements, personalities. At the second meeting, Mr Crampton presented the main subject matter -- China, her background, present difficulties, possible future -- succinctly, illuminatingly, comprehensively, engrossingly. Indeed, a tour de force! Mr Crampton has been connected with the State Department and has now finished doing graduate work at Boston University in history and political economy.

The meetings have been very well attended with softball and television relegated to the background, for the nonce. We were proud of our Discussion Group who proved themselves alert and surprisingly well-informed on world affairs. Mrs Georgia Crampton's special bent and desire was to arouse and nurture women's interest in Current Events, to inculcate daily newspaper habits, and finally, to awaken potentialities in interpreting what one read. We believe that some of the seed, at least, fell in fertile ground. Up-to-date, balanced bibliographies were given out together with practical hints for quick ways of perusing and distilling the best of a newspaper or journal. Top ranking newspapers were suggested as well as titillating evaluations given of present day writers on international matters. Refreshments were a happy prolongation of an absorbing evening.

It has been most pleasant and rewarding having such a competent, charming, informative, inspiring young couple as Mr and Mrs Crampton. They truly have been a delightful dessert and fillip topping off the fourth year of informal, provocative, bi-weekly Book and Current Events' Discussions.

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JUNE 22 IS THE DAY!

Those members of the staff who lost pay in the December twenty-third robbery have been informed that they may expect to receive reimbursement for the pay loss on June twenty-second. This 22nd bids fair to be a much better day than a certain 23rd turned out to be!

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Branch Issue

On Thursday evening, May 18, following dinner at Freda's, a group of library friends of Miss Colomba Bartalini of Branch Issue Department attended a play at the North End Union. Nina gave an excellent performance in a very important part. The play chosen this year by the Literary Club of the North End Union was "The Cracked Nutts".

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Robinson, Henry M.
The Cardinal.
New York, Simon and Schuster, 1950
West, Anthony
The vintage.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1950

Non-fiction

Baldwin, Monica
I leap over the wall.
New York, Rinehart, 1950
Carnahan, Ann
The Vatican.
New York, Farrar, Straus, 1949
Coit, Margaret L.
John C. Calhoun.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1950
Peale, Norman
The art of real happiness.
New York, Prentice-Hall, 1950
Sears, Minnie E.
Sears list of subject headings. 6th edition.
New York, H. W. Wilson, 1950
Williams, Eric
The wooden horse.
New York, Harper, 1949

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WEST ROXBURY BRANCH LIBRARY

"Have you ever heard of the sugar-plum tree?
'Tis a marvel of great renown!"

...Or so the children thought as they eagerly picked the gaily colored gum drops off their "sugar-plum tree" which was the high spot of the final pre-school story hour of the season. Twenty-five children were present at the party with their favorite toys in tow. After listening to several recordings of Mother Goose rhymes and stories, children and mothers joined in playing simple games. May baskets of candy and animal crackers were given to the little guests, while punch and cookies were served to the mothers.

SCHOOL ISSUE DEPARTMENT

Miss Marie T. Hastie received a B.S. degree from Boston College.

****

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

Dear Editor:

It is not only refreshing but also heartening to learn, even at this late date, that on Dec. 27, 1949, a committee of one from our Board of Trustees was in conference with the then Mayor, Ass't Corporation Counsel, and Mr Fox, in re the recently stolen salaries.

Were it not for the fact that knowledge of the above came via City Hall Channels, we, of the staff, might never have heard of the exceptional interest the present Board of Trustees took, and are taking, on behalf of those who were so unfortunate as to be victims of thieves, or, a thief. It seems rather odd that we have to depend upon outside sources for information of this nature.

When the matter was presented to the Mayor et al., on Dec. 27, 1949, measures were immediately taken to find ways and means of reimbursing the staff members concerned, so that, now, in the near future, a regulation form will be mailed to each individual covering the loss sustained by him or her.

It does seem to be in order now that an appreciative note of thanks should be sent to the Trustees by those whose hearts will be gladdened by the quick and speedy action of a Board which recognizes the value of personal interest in and contact with any and all members of the staff regardless of the position held. Hitherto, Boards of Trustees seemed to be a sacrosanct body. That was bad for any force of workers. It may not have been the intention of those Boards so to appear, nevertheless, the effect was just the same as if it were intended to be.

Now, however, the present Board has written new pages in the history of Librarydom; it has sought (and is succeeding admirably) to humanize a force whose morale was lamentably low. There is many a rare gem hidden in the somewhat darkened stacks of our building and there is also many a flower whose fragrance needs but to be released from studied repression and suppression, in order to disclose qualities undreamed of by the Trustees. This holds true of many libraries, not ours alone.

Once the Trustees discover the potentialities of the above then the latter may well cease to chant the words of the poet

"Worse than death is deathless hope."

Sincerely yours,

FAIR PLAY

Editor's Note: Referring to paragraph 2 above, under date of January 4, 1950 (see The Question Mark, February 1950, page 5, column 2), the Director wrote to the President of the Association:
"Steps were taken immediately (even outside of regular working hours over the Christmas weekend itself) to ascertain what might be done by way of reimbursement to those members of the library staff who had suffered personal loss through the safe robbery here in the Central Library building on Thursday night, December 22. A conference was thereafter held promptly on Tuesday morning, December 27, with the highest-ranking officers of the city administration..." We had assumed that the Library was represented in both instances by the Director and the Trustees.

*

To the Soap Box:

COMMENTS ON JOB EVALUATION, PROMOTIONS ETC.

Private industry has for some time recognized the fact that those in supervisory capacities be capable of maintaining good relationships, not only with those in other administrative positions, but above all with those in subordinate positions. Such relations should naturally not be encouraged at the expense of work accomplished, discipline, or rules and regulations. In fact, it has been proven many times that only in those instances where staff morale is at a high level are the duties of a position carried out with the best results. Therefore, it does seem that this particular asset, the ability of maintaining high staff morale, should be particularly emphasized in the selection of those persons considered for positions involving the supervision of others.

- - - - -

In regard to the question of the wide salary differential ($700) between the chief of the department and the first assistant, consideration should be given to the following facts:

The reference departments of the central library are open from 69-78 hours a week, the library work week is 35 hours. The chief, therefore, is on duty approximately one half of the work week. The first assistant is responsible in the chief's absence and usually alternates with him. When a chief is on duty but absent from the department for meetings or other reasons the first assistant is responsible for and actually in charge of the reference work with the public and the staff of the department. All other activities usually associated with the chief of the department such as book selection, the writing of reports etc. are also, according to department, accomplished by the first assistant. With the exception of attendance at administrative meetings, where final decisions are made by a higher administrative official, the first assistant is not only capable of, but actually does do the same work as a chief. In other words, the first assistant is not only the next in line to a chief, but because of the exigencies of a two platoon system practically and for all purposes of job evaluation on the same level, with some minor exceptions. Should there be this wide difference in remuneration?

*

To the Soap Box:

A notice appeared recently in TIME (April 24, 1950) describing two courses which have been made available to Philadelphia teachers. The courses were entitled: "Charm School and Personality Development" and "Voice as an Important Asset in Teaching." It may be that the Executive Board, in making plans for the next step in the In-Service Training Program, would wish to consider the possibility of including a course on personality. Of course, who would have the temerity to suggest that such a course were needed by BPL employees? However, it is interesting to note that in one short week 104 "eager teachers" of Philadelphia had enrolled! Surely Boston public "servants" could benefit from a similar course of instruction, if Philadelphia was that eager. Executive Board, please, we want to become scintillating, svelte, suave, and sophisticated.

*

COKES FOLKS?

Since the concession isn't working
Couldn't a Coke machine be lurking
In a corner for a refreshing pause?
Or isn't that in the clause?

Couldn't we find a way to do it?
No one, I'm sure, would ever rue it.
To soothe the parched aesophagus
We'd be grateful,

ALL OF US.

*

Dear Soap Box Editor:

At the March Staff meeting, the question of giving examinations immediately following courses was brought up. At that time the Director said that the matter was being looked into. Evidently it deserved a long look.

There are a great many who think as I, that it is only fair that these examinations should be given when the courses are completed. Everyone taking courses here gives up either 1 or 2 hours of his time, plus time spent on home study every week. This in itself, is evidence that the individuals are eager and interested in getting ahead.

Timing of examinations seems to be left to the discretion of the Administration. If the examinations were scheduled to follow immediately after the completion of courses, this arrangement would seem to be easier for both the Personnel Office, who handles the exams, and the employees taking them. It would mean less confusion in scheduling and a fairer chance for the staff of passing. And if, as the In-Service Training Committee of the BPLPSA suggested in their report at the Business meeting, a Director of Training were appointed to be responsible for exams, this would relieve Personnel of much of the burden.

Since, therefore, it is at the discretion of the Administration, are we to assume that the Administration is retarding and thwarting our efforts to advance? If so, let me point out here that there is much to be said for the policy of keeping employees happy and contented. Incentive is extremely necessary in any field of endeavor and it seems to be sadly lacking in this one. If the Administration does not supply it, is it any wonder that people leave to go to greener fields? The concern of the Administration should be the turnover in help, not only in the Subprofessional but in the Professional Service as well. A change in the policy of examinations would do much to alleviate the situation.

****

LATE FLASH

The Downey baby has been named Joan Marie.

****

HEAT RELIEF IS HERE AGAIN!

The weather man may say that summer 1950 begins officially at 6:37 p.m. on June 21, but we know differently. Heat relief came at 3:30 p.m. on June 8 and at 2 p.m. on June 9, and that's summer as far as we are concerned!

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APPENDIX A

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

Final Report of Special Committee on In-Service Training

To the Executive Board:

INTRODUCTION

It seems advisable, in order that there should be a better understanding of the work of the In-Service Training Committee, first to supply the background for the establishment of this Committee. The Association, desiring to fulfill its main objective of increasing professional interest and ability, undertook its first effort in the field of in-service training in the fall of 1948 when the Institute on the topic Interpreting the Library through Good Public Relations and the follow-up workshop were held. This was the outgrowth of an expression of interest on the part of the Director of the Library when, in reply to tentative suggestions regarding the possibility of expansion of the Library's In-Service Training Program, he indicated the desirability from the point of view of both the Association and the Library of the Association's assuming such leadership. In the final report of the Committee in charge of these programs, of which Miss Louisa S. Metcalf was chairman, the Committee stated "that it prefers to make no specific recommendations concerning a possible continuance of in-service training along the lines suggested by the institute and workshop. Having presented a demonstration of these methods, the Committee believes that the Association itself should now indicate what direction it may wish such programs to take in the future."

In 1949 a second Special Committee on In-Service Training was formed, with Mrs. Sarah W. Flannery as chairman, to determine the type of program to be sponsored that year by the Association and to be responsible for its presentation. This Committee, after exploring numerous possibilities came to the conclusion that another institute offered the most opportunity to the largest number of staff members within the limitation of time for the development of a program which had to be planned during the summer period for presentation in the fall. The Committee felt strongly that, before another Committee was appointed to prepare an in-service training program, a study should be made of the in-service training needs and desires of the Associations's members, and the Committee included this recommendation in its final report with the added suggestion that a poll of the membership be taken to ascertain the real interests of the staff in the matter of in-service training as undertaken by the Association.

DIRECTIVE AND PURPOSE

As a result of these experiences the Executive Board of the Association appointed the present Committee with the directive "to make a survey of the in-service training problem as it exists in our library, [noting] what has been attempted along this line, what has been accomplished, and what might be the objectives for the future." From this directive and the reviewing of the Association's in-service training activities of the past two years, the Committee developed a two-fold purpose:

(1) to form recommendations for consideration of desirable changes in the present in-service training program in the light of its findings, and
(2) to submit suggestions for a specific in-service training program or programs which might properly be sponsored by the Association.

A survey, according to the dictionary, is an examination of the matter under investigation with reference to condition, quantity, quality and the like. It is a preliminary and an essential step toward the preparation of a program of action. In approaching the task of an in-service training survey the Committee members familiarized themselves with the terms and tenets of in-service training and decided to use as a basis for the study a definition of in-service training which was evolved from an existing study of in-service training in the field of public administration.

"In-service training is management's process of aiding employees to gain effectiveness in their present and future work assignments by providing, planning, and organizing a program of systematic instruction and practice on the job in order

(1) to point out to the employee the way to apply the body of knowledge gained in pre-entry education and training to the concrete duties of a specific job, and
(2) to develop appropriate habits of thought and action, skills, and knowledge essential to effective performance."

For the purposes of this Committee's study the various methods used in in-service training programs were grouped under three headings:

(1) orientation or induction training,
(2) training for higher efficiency on the job, and
(3) training for promotion.

PROCEDURE

The procedure followed by the Committee in gathering information is explained in detail in the Preliminary Report submitted to the Executive Board on April 25, 1950, and now on file, and need not be repeated here. It should be noted, however, that the Committee did not attempt direct correspondence with other libraries but used what literature was already available, such as the SORT In-Service Training Survey of 1949, the Chicago University thesis In-Service Training in Large Public Libraries, written by Harold W. Tucker and published in 1940, and the numerous articles in professional periodicals of the past few years, since the immediate concern was to create an awareness of possibilities in the field rather than to produce a scientific study of accomplishments.

The availability of courses and opportunities outside the Library and the formal classes of instruction as they are now conducted in the Library were given careful consideration. In addition, instructors in the latter were invited to offer comments. The compilation of courses given both in the Library and outside has revealed that there is either no course available, or no course separate from a formal program of instruction, which an individual might take in preparation for promotional examinations in the following subjects: BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY - HISTORY, CATALOGING (advanced), CLASSIFICATION (advanced), DOCUMENTS, EXTENSION WORK, LIBRARY RECORDS, and WORK WITH SCHOOLS.

A questionnaire was circulated to members of the Association on April 27, 1950, the questions on which were designed to indicate both to what extent the present program meets the needs of the staff and to what extent changes may be desirable, as well as how keenly concerned the individual staff members may be to have additional professional stimulus. The tabulated results of the questionnaire are submitted with this report, but there are some general observations to be made.

The 292 responses from 436 questionnaires sent out represent a high percentage of returns for a questionnaire of this kind. That a sizable group at a variety of levels is to be considered has been brought out by the fact that there were replies from 71 Sub-Professional Assistants, 45 Probationary Assistants, 44 individuals at the Third Step Level, 47 at the Fifth Step Level, and 41 at the Officer Level. The few remaining replies were from individuals at the First, Second and Fourth Step Levels, with 16 others not indicating at what level they were in the Professional Library Service.

It should be pointed out that every question was not always answered by the individual filling out the questionnaire. The figures do show, however, a significant number in favor of the Association sponsoring a program, with 128 individuals willing to give one to two hours per week to such an activity, and only 22 definitely stating they would give no time at all.

The question regarding the taking of courses as a pre-requisite to taking the corresponding examinations was difficult to tabulate since the individuals answering did not make correct distinctions in the examinations listed, but it is evident from the 141 distinct "No's" for the Sub-Professional Library Service and the 138 "No's" for the Professional Library Service that the majority answering do not approve of the requirement. There were only 11 who wanted to see all courses made compulsory. In view of these results, and after careful consideration, the Committee believes it is not advisable to recommend that courses be made compulsory. This will allow for a flexible policy permitting each case to be judged on an individual basis. The Committee agrees, however, on the desirability of the taking of courses and would like to record its unanimous opinion that the knowledge and training gained in this way is not to be compared with information gathered by intensified study of notes in order to pass an examination. There is a lasting value gained, and the individual becomes an asset to the Library more likely than he would if he were merely to pass an examination.

Of the 124 replies naming additional courses for the Library to offer there was great variety suggested, but those most frequently asked for were story-telling, literature, social sciences, foreign languages, history, book evaluation and criticism, orientation for new assistants, adult education, community problems. There were 200 willing to pay a fee for worthwhile programs in order to secure adequate leadership.

The preferences as to form of in-service training which might be pursued more extensively were:

(1) Formal Classes,
(2) Institutes, Panels, Lectures, and
(3) Workshops (third in total of requests) and
Orientation Courses (third in number of first choices).

The preferences in the fields of interest were:

(1) Book Reviewing,
(2) Reader Guidance, and
(3) Publicity (third in total of requests) and
Work with Teen-Age Youth (third in number of first choices).

INTERPRETATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In interpreting the figures compiled from the questionnaires to formulate recommendations the Committee has given weight to factors known to exist from the other parts of the study which has been made, and to the information gathered from additional comments invited on the questionnaire. The Committee believes that formal classes, in terms of those that are now conducted for in-service training, are not suitable for an Association activity. The fact that formal classes received first place among in-service training devices shows the need which existing classes fill and the desire on the part of the staff for further and particular knowledge.

The Committee believes, furthermore, that qualified instructors, carefully selected training media, necessary physical resources and adequate time are some of the requisites of a successful in-service training program. These factors, and the comments made by the instructors of the present classes, as well as by students in the classes, point out the need for a director of training whose sole duty would be the supervision and coordination of the Library's In-Service Training Program. By this means a more effective program could be carried on as a whole with continued high standards assured. A completely organized program of training is an accepted necessity; the definite planning of all training is the next step.

Many authorities agree that one of the chief aims of in-service training for libraries is acquaintance with policies and practices of a particular library, and that the type of induction training given can make or break the interest of a new trainee. The Committee is of the belief (substantiated by the concern reflected in the comments of the staff) that there is a special need for extension of the present orientation program. Such a program should emphasize the history and importance of the Library and its place in the community. It should thoroughly acquaint the new assistant with the Library and its departments and give him a sense of participation in carrying out its policies, and instill a feeling for librarianship as something more than just a job. It is at this point also that the new assistant, if he is to be in an open department, could be helped to understand the importance of meeting the public: as to the approach, the response, and how to conduct himself in difficult situations.

Closely allied to the orientation courses is another in-service training device for induction which is planned job rotation. There is some job rotation in the Library at present, more especially in the branch libraries, but the possibilities for job rotation in the Central Library could well be explored, particularly in those units where there is a special need. Job rotation for staff members who have been employed for a long period of time is often not desirable, but much could be gained if those individuals who would like to increase their knowledge and experience might be allowed the opportunity on a voluntary basis; for the new assistant job rotation is indispensable and should be compulsory.

Staff meetings are vital to the integration of library service and to the morale of the employees, and for this reason should be held with planned regularity. Such meetings should be for the separate units under each Branch Librarian and Department Head, for the Chiefs of Departments as for Branch Librarians at present, and for the whole staff. It would be valuable if there could be arranged at least one general staff meeting during the year to be held in a series of three meetings at which a cross-section of the staff could gather (instead of the present division by levels) and at which library problems, assembled by a committee of staff members in cooperation with the Administration, could be discussed.

In considering the subject of foreign languages in relation to courses it has come to the attention of the Committee that the requirement for the second step examination for the Reference Division might advantageously be changed to read "French or German and one other foreign language". Since many of the trained people entering the Professional Library Service come with a knowledge of French and German from college, giving recognition to a third foreign language would increase the variety of languages being handled with facility by the staff.

Two of the comments which appeared repeatedly were that courses should be taken in library time and that some form of credit should be given for them or for any other courses that may be added. The Committee believes that with the present five-day week it should not be a hardship for individuals to take courses on their own time, especially since most of the courses are taken in preparation for an examination for which the individual receives added remuneration when passed, as well as personal benefit and improvement. In parallel cases in business establishments, banks, and public schools it is expected that such courses will be taken on the employee's own time. On the question of credit the Committee points out that credit is given in the sense of additional information recorded in personnel files, but that there can be no acquiring of credits in the terms of college credits for courses other than in an accredited educational institution.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommends for consideration the following changes and additions to the present In-Service Training Program:

(1) the appointment of an individual to the position of director of training whose sole duty would be the supervision and coordination of the Library's In-Service Training Program,

(2) an extended orientation course for new assistants,

(3) job rotation as an essential device in induction training,

(4) regularly planned staff meetings within units and for Department Heads (where they do not now exist) and planned discussion meetings for the general staff without division of staff by levels, and

(5) the requirement for the Step II promotional examination expanded to include French and German OR French or German and one other foreign language, to be decided from the needs of the department.

SUGGESTED PROGRAM AND CONCLUSION

In projecting plans for the Association's in-service training program for the coming year the Committee decided that its suggestions should be presented in general rather than specific terms, since the individuals who will do the actual work on the planning and presentation will have to determine the necessary details in carrying it out.

The Committee recommends that the Association sponsor a series of workshops which can be undertaken over a period of time not necessarily limited to one year. Since the Association has sponsored two successful Institutes, some other form of in-service training program should be explored more thoroughly, and workshops would seem to be the logical next step. Although a workshop was part of the 1948 program, it was given at a time which prevented it from receiving full support and was not, therefore, a fair trial of this device. In offering a series of workshops which can be spaced at the discretion of the Executive Board of the Association, either in a sequence or simultaneously, the Committee feels that definite and practical help may be given to small groups of staff members, a fact which has distinct merit.

Basing its recommendation on the preference expressed in the questionnaire, and on the overall study, the Committee suggests that the subjects for these workshops be selected to include the following: Book Reviewing in terms of evaluation for potential readers, Reader Guidance, individual and group, Publicity, Work with Teen-Age Youth, and Supervisory Problems. By the term Book Reviewing the Committee believes that evaluation of current materials is the type of presentation desired with the interests of both Divisions - Circulation and Reference - being represented in two separate workshops. The series should be open to librarians of the Boston area as the Institutes of the past two years have been. This would add to the financial support of the programs and help secure for them outstanding personalities.

In conclusion, the Committee would like to repeat that any program undertaken by the Association should not duplicate courses available elsewhere unless the outside courses are not keyed to library needs, that speakers or leaders should be of high calibre and that the standards

in general should be kept at a high level. The changing needs and interests of the staff should be checked periodically in order that the Association may determine current demands of the staff in planning its supplementary in-service training program, and consideration should be given in the future to the exploration of in-service training devices other than those already demonstrated.

Respectfully submitted,

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Pauline A. Walker, Chairman
Geraldine T. Beck
Bradford M. Hill
Evelyn Levy
Mary C. Robbins

23 May 1950

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

Statistics on Questionnaire sent to Members by In-Service Training Committee, 27 April 1950

Of the 436 questionnaires sent out 292 were returned.

1. Present position:

Sub-Professional Library Service		- 71 individuals checked
Professional Library Service		- 221 individuals checked
Probationary Assistant	45	
Assistant, 1st Step	8	
Assistant, 2d Step	7	
Assistant, 3d Step	44	
Assistant, 4th Step	13	
Assistant, 5th Step	47	
Officer	41	
Unspecified	16	

2. ..., favor the BPLPSA undertaking an in-service training program...

Yes	189
No	47

3. Which ... forms of in-service training would you like ...

Formal classes on particular subjects	144
Institutes, panels, lectures	103
Workshops	97

4. How much time ... would you ... be willing to give ...

One hour a week	79
Two hours a week	49
Two hours a month	14
One hour a month	6
No time	22

5. ... courses ... pre-requisite ... to taking ... examinations:

In Sub-Professional Library Service		
Yes	82	
No		141
In Professional Library Service		
Yes	63	
No		138
For all		
Yes	11	
	156	279

5. (Continued) ... name the courses which should be made pre-requisite:

In Sub-Professional Library Service	
Registration	31
Book Preparation	25
Cataloging and Classification	32
In Professional Library Service	
Cataloging and Classification	74
Reference	37
Book Selection	16

6. Do you think that the Boston Public Library should offer courses other than those offered at present?

Yes	124
No	69

If so, please state what courses:

Storytelling	Refresher Courses
Literature	Courses dealing with Public
Social Science	Book Reviewing
History	Foreign Languages - Spanish, Italian, Russian

7. ... would you be willing to pay nominal fee ...

Yes	200
No	40
Doubtful	1

8. ... preference of ... fields of interest:

f.	Book Reviewing	126
c.	Reader Guidance	121
g.	Publicity	88
k.	Work with Teen-Age Youth	85

23 May 1950

APPENDIX B

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

Final Report of the Committee on Personnel Service Ratings

To the Executive Board:

The Committee on Personnel Service Ratings of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association submits the following recommendations.

A. Ratings forms.

1. That the administration again review the use of Ratings forms with the possibility in mind of limiting their use to the following:

   a. Ratings forms to be used for Unclassified and Probationary assistants at either three or six month intervals until permanently appointed.

   b. Ratings forms to be used for candidates for promotion, change of position and transfer.

   c. Ratings forms to be used whenever the employee or department head so request, - but not oftener than once a year.

B. Presuming that the use of Ratings forms is to remain in practice, the Committee submits the following suggestions.

1. Committee of Review.

   a. Our present system calling for a review of each rating by the immediate supervisor of the rater and then by the Division Head functions, in effect, as would a Committee of Review. We have what amounts to an informal review of each personnel rating and the Committee feels that there is no need of a more formal type of Review Board. Similar systems for review of ratings seem to be the common practice in most of the other large libraries which responded to a questionnaire on the subject.

2. We would recommend a Board of Appeal with power to decide each case brought before said board to function as follows:

   a. A panel of ten members appointed every year; five by the administration and five by the executive board of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association.

b. The Board of Appeal to be drawn for each case to consist of three members from the above mentioned panel; one chosen by the administration, one chosen by the executive board of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association, and one chosen by the person whose case is being appealed.

Finally the Committee recommends that it might be advisable to conduct a poll to determine the general opinion of the staff on the above mentioned recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice E. Hackett, Chairman
(Mrs.) Barbara P. Cotter
Marie Cronin
Dorothy Shaw
Gladys White

APPENDIX C

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

Final Report of the Committee on Sabbatical Leaves of Absence

To the Executive Board:

The new Committee appointed in March to investigate sabbatical leaves received from the former Committee headed by Miss Smart summaries of conditions for sabbatical leaves in public schools, state colleges and universities. These were reported to the Association at the business meeting on January 20.

Since the A.L.A. Board on Personnel Administration continued to ignore letters of inquiry about sabbatical leaves for librarians, the new Committee sent out on April 15 a questionnaire to 40 large public libraries of the country asking for statements of policy in granting some form of leave of absence which might be termed sabbatical.

Of these 40 libraries, 39 answered. 16 volunteered information about their leaves without pay for study, travel, health, or temporary work in another library, such leaves as are comparable to those granted staff members in this library. Three libraries indicated the granting of some form of leave with pay.

Two answers of particular interest came from Brooklyn and New York City where extra vacations with pay are granted with sabbatical regularity. The Brooklyn Public Library gives an "Extra Service Leave" which is granted to all members of their staff: Administrative, Professional, Clerical, and Custodial, for length of service. This leave is an extra month's vacation. The first leave is given at the conclusion of ten years of service and succeeding leaves every seven years thereafter. In the case of professional workers it is sometimes used for the purpose of professional study, but much more often it is used only as additional vacation time. The New York Public Library grants to all regular, permanent employees who have given 25 years of full-time service, 26 additional working days with full salary. This is repeated every five years after the initial leave. No purpose is specified or required. A substitute is employed if necessary. The New York Public Library Personnel Office states that conditions for this leave are under consideration for revision.

The Fort Worth Public Library indicates that in a few instances short leaves with pay have been granted in special cases.

After study and discussion of information contained in these answers to the questionnaire, the Committee has drawn up the following proposals for the granting of sabbatical leaves to members of the staff of this library and with the approval of the Executive Board of the Association submits these proposals now for your consideration:

First, It is recommended that on request an extra 24 days' vacation with half pay be granted for study or travel to members of the bibliothecal staff after 10 years of service. Similar leaves to be repeated, if requested, every 7 years thereafter.

Second, It is recommended as an alternate choice, after 10 years of service, that a staff member be granted for purposes of more extended study 6 months with half pay. An additional 6 months to be allowed, in conjunction with the first 6 months, but without pay, for continued study, if desired. On special consideration, the same grants of time to be made for research, writing, and purposeful travel, when approved by the proper authority.

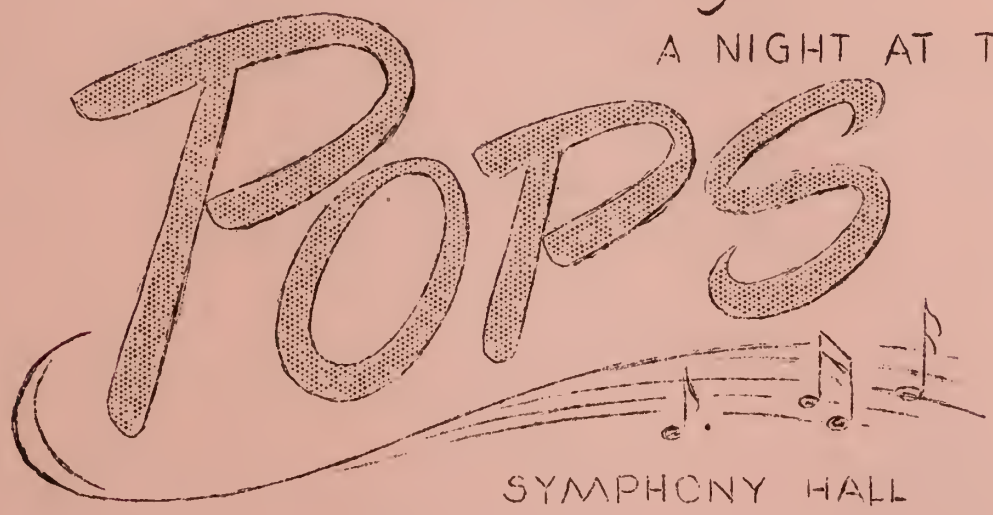
Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Haviland, Chairman
Edward X. Casey
Jeannette Pepin
Edith M. Sliney

The B.P.L.P.S.A.

is sponsoring

A NIGHT AT THE



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150 TICKETS

75 FIRST BALCONY · $1.75

75 FLOOR SEATS · $2.25

Send money with request to
Mary O'G. Cahill
Book Purchasing Department

DEADLINE FOR SECURING TICKETS . JUNE 20

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Helen Savakian

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume V, Number 7 July 1950

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Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

In a recent talk to librarians at Youngstown, Ohio, Mr Clarence R. Graham, Librarian of the Free Public Library, Louisville, Kentucky, stated that at his Library book circulation has increased by one-third since the introduction of non-book materials such as television, films, records, and radio broadcasting.

In a recent article by a popular writer of a syndicated column the following appeared: "A million good books go unread while the guests watch the rassles on the TV screen. ... In the face of charades and canasta, literature has gone underground."

Since the introduction of film showings in branch libraries, the increasing number of television sets in homes, and the wave of enthusiasm for canasta, what has been happening to reading and circulation in the Boston Public Library? Obviously, to compare the Boston Public Library's facilities with those of the Louisville Public Library would be to place our Library at a disadvantage, inasmuch as developments in the field of audio-visual aids in Louisville have been phenomenal, and even include its own FM radio station, WFPL.

Branch Librarians and Department Chiefs know what has been happening to reading and circulation in the past few years; others can gain a knowledge of the quantity if not the quality by consulting the annual statistical reports. Our purpose in introducing the subject here is to invite discussion in the next issue of THE QUESTION MARK on the pros and cons of television vs. reading and circulation, canasta vs. reading and circulation, etc. We urge those who have ideas on ways to encourage reading, and incidentally keep circulation increasing, to express them. An open discussion on the subject may prove helpful. Don't wait for the other fellow to "speak his piece" first; set your thoughts down on paper and send them in.

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ALA HIGHLIGHTS BY BPL STAFF MEMBERS

This is an invitation to each person going to ALA to bring back to "The Question Mark" a short paragraph -- maybe a half column -- setting forth what he or she considered to be the highlight of the Convention. Remember the deadline -- August 10, -- but we suggest that you let us have it earlier while the details are fresh in your mind.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Mr Lloyd W. Griffin, Cataloging and Classification for Reference and Research Services.

Mr George Pahud, Music Department.

Mrs Jan M. Jackman, Personnel Office. Mrs Jackman formerly worked in the Cataloging and Classification for Reference and Research Services.

Resignations

Miss Nancy Dickson, Book Selection for Home Reading Services, to be married.

Miss Jean Richardson, Personnel Office, to accept another position.

Mrs Elizabeth A. Simoons, Bookmobile, to live in California where her husband has a teaching position.

Engagements

Miss Anne Moore, Open Shelf Department, to Mr Paul Dolan of Jamaica Plain. Mr Dolan is associated with the law firm of Palmer, Dodge, Bickford, and Bradford.

Miss Julia M. Manning, Rare Book Department, to Mr Edward F. Gurnett, Jr. of Newtonville.

Weddings

On Saturday, July 1, Miss Anne Connors was married to Mr James M. Kearney of Dorchester at St. William's Church, Dorchester. The bride wore a princess-style gown of white lace over satin, the dress flowing into a train and the veil full-length. Her bouquet was of white orchids. The bride's sister, Miss Gretchen Connors, was maid of honor. Miss Mary T. C. Mannix of Parker Hill Branch Library and Miss Marie Kennedy of Mt. Bowdoin Branch Library, Children's Librarians, were bridesmaids. All three wore frosted blue organdy gowns and carried old-fashioned bouquets. A reception for one hundred and twenty-five guests was held in the Sheraton Room, Copley Plaza Hotel. Mr and Mrs Kearney are taking a honeymoon trip by auto through the northern New England states to Montreal, where they will take a boat trip up the Saguenay.

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PUBLICATIONS BY STAFF MEMBERS

The Jewish Child in Bookland, by Fanny Goldstein. Jewish Council of America. New York. 1950.

"A selected bibliography of juveniles for the Jewish child's own bookshelf."

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The June 1950 issue of The New England Quarterly includes a review of Jessie H. Shera's Foundations of the Public Library, one of the "Studies in Library Science" published by the University of Chicago, by Mr Zoltán Haraszti, Keeper of Rare Books and Editor of Publications.

*

The 1950 census of the Americas. Mary F. Daly. Library Journal, June 15, 1950 pp. 1030-31.

An appraisal of the important contribution made to the furthering of inter-American social and economic relationships by the 1950 census of the Americas. The first hemispheric census, this work is a cooperative undertaking of the twenty-two nations of the Western hemisphere.

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TALKS BY STAFF MEMBERS

Mr Richard G. Appel, Chief of the Music Department, recently addressed the young people's group in the New Old South Church on the Appreciation of Fine Music.

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BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

to

Miss Jean B. Lay, Cataloging and Classification for Home Reading Services, as she recuperates at the New England Sanitarium, 5 Woodland Road, Stoneham, after her recent operation.

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BON VOYAGE!

Mrs Anna Lou Shanor, assistant in the Children's Room at the South End Branch Library, and her husband flew from New York on July 3 to Europe. Landing in Paris, they will visit parts of France, England, Scotland, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland.

*

Miss Rebecca Millmeister, Second Assistant, West End Branch Library is now on a five-week flying (literally) trip to Israel, Greece, Great Britain, Scotland, and Ireland. The staff wishes her an enriching and happy journey.

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MR MURPHY WINS A FORD

Mr Martin Murphy, congenial operator of the staff elevator, held the lucky number and was presented with a new Ford sedan by the West Roxbury Post of the American Legion. Mr Murphy had recently purchased a new Chevrolet but he is keeping the Ford in the family by passing it along to his

sister. Congratulations to him -- and to his sister.

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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Scholarship Awards

Mr Walter R. Curley
Probationary Assistant, Science and Technology Department
Francis Skinner Scholarship
Miss Elizabeth M. Kaufmann
Assistant, Print Department
Joseph H. Center Scholarship
Miss Joan J. Pollard
Probationary Assistant, Lower Mills Branch Library
Daniel Treadwell Scholarship
Miss Ellen E. Richwagen
Probationary Assistant, Roslindale Branch Library
Daniel Sharp Ford Scholarship

A.L.A. Conference Grants

Mrs Iphigenia K. Fillios
Assistant, West Roxbury Branch Library
Mrs Evelyn G. Green
First Assistant, Jamaica Plain Branch Library
Miss Ruth M. Hayes
Branch Librarian, Neponset Branch Library
Miss Elvira G. Lavorgna
Assistant, Fine Arts Department
Mr Thomas J. Manning
Assistant 5th Step, Director's Office

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Mrs Grace B. Loughlin, Chief, Branch Issue Department, has been invited to represent the Boston Public Library staff on the Membership Committee of the Massachusetts Library Association.

*

West End Branch Library is proud and pleased to announce that it is the only institution in this part of the country which receives the Bulletin of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Miss Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, is the American Corresponding Secretary.

*

Mr Richard G. Appel, Chief, Music Department, has been reappointed as Chairman of the Committee on Periodical Indexes of the Music Library Association by Edward E. Colby, the new president.

His transcription for full orchestra of Bach's Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring was played at the Boston "Pops" on June 21, in connection with the program arranged for the members of the American Guild of Organists.

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BPL ON TV

Phases of the work of the Boston Public Library have been featured on five television shows since the middle of June. On three occasions members of the staff participated.

The first of the three was Miss Elizabeth B. Boudreau, Chief of the Information Office, who told of the work of that office, of the June exhibitions, and of the summer reading list, Through the Open Gate, over WNAC-TV on June 12.

On June 29, Mr Thomas Manning, Exhibits Office, made his second appearance on behalf of the Library when he told of the exhibit of Old Cook Books and displayed many of the books and unusual utensils which are part of the material shown in the Chavannes Gallery during the first two weeks in July. This was also over WNAC-TV.

The third program was an interview between Gretchen McMullen, who had lent many kitchen utensils for the exhibit about which Mr Manning had spoken, and Bill Hahn of Station WNAC-TV, on July 5. Because of the interest in the subject this interview was given an extra ten minutes.

That same afternoon the exhibit of cook books came in for more publicity over Station WBZ-TV, although no member of the staff participated.

Miss Virginia Haviland, Branch Librarian, told of the activities planned for the summer months at Phillips Brooks Branch Library when she appeared on WNAC-TV on July 10. She brought with her for display puppets in the process of making, completed puppets, wild flower specimens, finger paintings, and the candy house of the witch in Hansel and Gretel. She had an opportunity also to call attention to the summer reading list.

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RECENT VISITORS

Mr E. Seymour Shaw, Trustee, Public Library, Sidney, New South Wales.

Miss Carol Miles, Catalog Department, Johannesburg Public Library, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Dr S. R. Ranganathan, Professor of Library Science, University of Delhi, India. He was accompanied by Mr A. Parthesarathy, also of the University of Delhi.

Mrs Elsa Ulfsparre, Lund, Sweden.

Mrs S. A. Cracknell, Library Trustee, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Mr John Mackenzie Cory, Executive Secretary, American Library Association.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Having heard such pleasant reports from Mrs Edith H. Bailey, Branch Librarian, Emeritus, Phillips Brooks Branch Library, who is acting as guide at "Fruitlands", we asked her if she would be willing to share some of her enthusiasm with us through the pages of "The Question Mark". She has sent us the following, for which we are most appreciative. We are sure that Mrs Bailey will welcome all BPLers who find themselves in the vicinity of Harvard, Massachusetts, during the summer months.

If you have ever driven to Fruitlands and turned into Prospect Hill Road at The Pergolas, home of Clara Endicott Sears, you will never forget the sudden, breathtaking view from there -- down over the Nashua Valley, then up and away toward Wachuset and Monadnock on the horizon. It is on this lovely hillside that I am spending the summer.

Looking down from her terrace some thirty-five years ago, Miss Sears saw at the foot of the hill a tumble-down old farmhouse that she knew had once been the scene of the idealistic effort to build a "New Eden." Bronson Alcott had lived there with his family when Louisa May was about ten years old. Emerson and the rest of the Transcendentalists had gone in and out. The house, she decided, must be restored to remind our modern generation of the ideas and ideals of that group of thinkers who had so large a share in "the flowering of New England."

Before many years Miss Sears became aware that the Shaker community of Harvard, after many years of prosperous growth, was dying out. Again a chapter of New England history to be rescued! Before the last Shakers were taken away and the building sold, she had had the oldest house moved bodily to our hillside, where it made a second museum, presenting Shaker life, customs, belief, and especially their rather amazing inventiveness and practical business ventures.

And if the history of the valley was to be preserved, what of the Indians? A beautiful new building, built of material from historic sites, came to house a collection not so large as some, but unique in its beauty. The emphasis is on Indian art and handicraft, and on symbols of their poetic and religious aspirations. Two splendid statues by Philip Sears, especially one of Paumananguit, "He Who Shoots the Stars", are worth coming to Fruitlands to see. For nearly ten years Miss Sears was gathering Indian material that required an addition to the original building.

In the meantime she was becoming absorbed in the quest of vanishing portraits by itinerant artists and has gathered an unequaled collection of New England primatives which art connoisseurs and fellow collectors come from all over the country to see. As late as 1947 another gallery was added, this time of Hudson River artists.

Here it is that I have found a new job as one of five museum guides. I'm as thrilled at the opportunity as I was -- how many years ago? -- when Miss Peck suggested that I apply for a job at Phillips Brooks. In both cases life as it had been seemed to have come to a dead end -- then a new vista opened. In both cases, too, was the challenge of a lot of studying to be done (delightful reading here on Transcendentalists, Shaker, Indian lore and early American art) and the joy of meeting and working with people (How can folks be satisfied with jobs that deal only with things!) Yes, people. People from every where!

Our first day open came eight Niemann Fellows from Harvard with their families, about to scatter next day to as many states. Three days later a group of sixteen from the UN appeared. They were members of the permanent secretariat being

entertained in Harvard (town not university) by a group representing the Historical Society, League of Women Voters, and D.A.R. Their eagerness was quite matched by our enthusiasm as their revealing comments made Denmark, South Africa, Mexico, and a dozen other countries seem more a part of One World.

Since then unofficial representatives from at least as many more countries have come here. One particularly dull and quiet day, for instance, revealed on the register; Athens, Greece; Anchorage, Alaska; Hungary and Harvard University.

But it's not only visitors from afar that give us joy. The typical group is one person or couple who have been here before, with guests from California, Alabama or just next door to share their enthusiasm. It has been a pleasure to me to welcome at different times twenty-six people from my particular briar patch, Hyde Park. Now I am beginning to look for friends from B.P.L.

Do come --

(signed) Edith H. Bailey

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Over a period of many years Miss Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, has collected books relating to the history of New England. After carefully considering where such a collection -- 1200 was the final count -- would be of greatest value, she chose Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon. There the collection is to be known as the Edith Guerrier New England Collection. Before the gift was sent, all the volumes were properly mended and bound where such attention was needed. A card catalog was prepared by Mrs Fenno Faulkner, former children's librarian and branch librarian in the Boston Public Library, and every book was properly numbered. The classification of the collection, was devised by an expert classifier, Miss M. A. Hughes, Librarian of Northeastern University Law Library. We quote two letters received by Miss Guerrier after the books reached their destination -- one from the President of the College, Mr Morgan Odell; the other from the Librarian, Mr Laurence E. Tomlinson.

April 12, 1950

Dear Miss Guerrier:

As I have read over the list of materials which your generosity led you to send us and looked at some of the books and periodicals, my heart rejoices again in the unexpected gift which came to us from clear across the continent. The good impressions which Miss Armstrong and yourself received concerning our early developments on this new campus have borne fruit richly for us. Members of the English faculty are delighted with the materials available for some research work. Your collection of New England materials, particularly as they deal with the literary history of Massachusetts, will strengthen us greatly as we move carefully out into the field of advanced study for the Master's degree.

Dr Tomlinson is planning the best possible display of the materials, particularly in connection with commencement. As you know, our present library facilities are decidedly limited. Some day, of course, we will have a fine structure in which special alcoves will be available for your collection, along with one or two others of western literature which are now developing.

We hope to have the pleasure of a visit from you in the not too distant future.

Very sincerely,

(signed) MORGAN ODELL

Dear Miss Guerrier:

I wish to take this opportunity to express to you our sincere gratitude for your presentation of The New England Collection to our library. You certainly have spared no time nor expense in cataloging the books and in systematically segregating them by classification. I am sure, when the collection is shelved, both students and faculty will profit greatly from the materials included.

In the meantime, we are making a summary examination and evaluation of the individual items preparatory to writing up an informative publicity article. We understand that it is your wish that we keep the collection intact as a separate library. If it is agreeable with you, we shall refer to it in the future as the "Edith Guerrier New England Collection".

With the hope that I may have the pleasure of meeting you personally in the near future, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) LAURENCE E. TOMLINSON

April 1, 1950

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We welcome home after a long hospitalization, Mr William McCarthy, 42 Vinson Street, Dorchester. Mr McCarthy worked in the Newspaper and Periodical Department before his illness.

*

Announcement has been made of the birth of a son, Stephen Paul, on May 16, 1950 to Mr and Mrs William Clancy. Mrs Clancy is the former Jeanne Delaney of the Children's Room at Dorchester Branch Library.

*

Announcement has been made of the birth of a daughter on July 11, 1950 to Mr and Mrs George Cooms. Mrs Cooms is the former Lydia Iacono of Dorchester Branch Library.

*

Announcement has been made of the birth of a son to Mr and Mrs Edward Maloof on July 6. Mrs Maloof is the former Kathryn Dolan of the Open Shelf Department.

*

Announcement has been made of the birth of twins, a son and a daughter, to Mr and Mrs Joseph Coutoure. Mrs Coutoure is the former Evelyn Walsh of the Open Shelf Department.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The query which appeared in the June Soap Box regarding the installation of a coke machine prior to the opening of the concession was given due consideration by the Concession Committee. The Committee reports that the contract for the work on the concession has been awarded and should go forward within the very near future. The contract with the concessionaire calls for the dispensing of soft drinks over the counter rather than by machine. Since this contract is already signed and since the concession should be in operation relatively soon it does not seem feasible to set up a coke machine which would have to be taken out as soon as the concession opened. It is sad, very sad, to be thirsty these hot days but let us bear our great burden with fortitude.

*

During the past year there has been an increasing interest in The Question Mark, due entirely to the high quality of this periodical (Editor and Publications Committee, please take a bow). This interest has resulted in a request that some provision be made whereby those who have left the service may have the privilege of receiving The Question Mark. It has also resulted in a rather steady demand for extra copies on the part of Association members. Sometime ago it was ruled that all those who retired should automatically receive The Question Mark, if they so requested. This ruling still stands. The Executive Board has now added the following proviso:
Any Association member who leaves the service prior to retirement may receive The Question Mark, if he so desires, for the sum of fifty cents a year, to cover the cost of postage and handling. Association members who desire extra copies of any number of The Question Mark may have them, if they are available, for the price of ten cents a copy.

*

Based on the recommendation of the special committee on In-Service Training, headed by Miss Pauline Walker (See The Question Mark, June 1950, Appendix A), the Executive Board decided to sponsor a series of workshops to be conducted during the spring of 1951. In order to get this project launched, a Steering Committee was appointed. It shall be the task of this committee to set up overall plans for the workshops, as to times they are to be held, subjects to be included, type of leaders to be used, and all general activities

coincidental with such a project. The committee is as follows:

Mr George E. Earley, General Reference Department

Miss Evelyn Levy, Brighton Branch Library

Mrs Dorothy T. Lovett, Kirstein Business Branch

This committee, if it is to function effectively, must have the support of the entire staff. These workshops are being set up as a result of the questionnaire in which a majority of the staff indicated their wishes for such an activity. Your cooperation is essential. If the Committee approaches you regarding your help in this matter, remember there is a vast difference between the five words "I'll be glad to help," and the four words, "Sorry, I'm too busy".

*

Some people seem to be worried over return of their applications for State Certification of Librarianship, which must be filed on or before August 14, 1950. In many instances these certificates have been held up, undoubtedly unavoidably so, for some time. Since August is the deadline for filing applications, and since vacations are now in full force, it might be well if everyone who is interested in obtaining a certificate should be sure that his application is in the Personnel Office before he leaves for vacation.

*

The following letters from the Director are self-explanatory and were sent upon his receipt of the reports of the three committees referred to in the letters:

10 July 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

I have examined with interest the Final Report of the Special Committee on In-Service Training as recently brought into being by the special committee under the chairmanship of Miss Pauline A. Walker.

I am pleased with the assurance conveyed in this presentation that the Association has responsibilities of its own as well as does the administration of the Library in this important matter of in-service training. I hope that the Association will be able to continue its program of positive accomplishment in this direction. At the same time I believe that the Library can proceed along positive lines itself. I hope that on both sides there will be an opportunity for continued study and accomplishment.

With thanks to you and your associates for the aid which you have been giving in this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD
Director

10 July 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

I have now had an opportunity to examine with some degree of care the Final Report of the Committee on Personnel Service Rating, as prepared by the special committee headed by Miss Alice E. Hackett as Chairman.

The suggestions made in this report are having careful consideration. I believe that from them may come the possibility of action in certain directions which will bring satisfaction to all concerned.

We are greatly obliged to you and your associates for the aid which is here represented.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD

Director

10 July 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

This comes to let you know that there is before us and receiving consideration the Final Report of the Special Committee on Sabbatical Leaves of Absence as brought into being by your committee headed by Miss Virginia Haviland as Chairman.

I think that I ought to say to you that the possibilities of action concerning the recommendations in this direction are probably somewhat problematic. Still the matter will be looked at with care, with the assurance that whatever has been

suggested or can be accomplished will be looked at with an open mind.

We are grateful to you and your associates for examining this matter which is of interest to so many people.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MILTON E. LORD

Director

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SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

The 1950 Annual Convention was held at Atlantic City, June 12-16.

The First General Session took place on Monday morning. The address of welcome was given by Dr John H. Bosshart, Commissioner, New Jersey State Education Department. Miss Hazel Kirk Levins, President of the New Jersey Chapter, gave the response. Various guests were introduced, including Dr Ranganathan, President of the Indian Library Association. The main speaker was Mr Freemont Rider, Chairman, Microcard Committee; Librarian, Wesleyan University. His topic was "Microcards and the Library Storage Problem." His arguments for microcards as an important development in saving storage space were most convincing.

The Chapter and Group Relations Luncheon on Monday was open to all members. Mr Howard Coonley, Chairman of the Executive Committee, American Standards Association, spoke on "The Methods of Successful Association Leadership." He touched on such points as Administration, Organization, Public Relations, and Leadership. Mr Coonley's qualifications and activities are legion.

The Executive Board and Advisory Council Meeting was held Tuesday morning. All Chapter Presidents are members of the Advisory Council. For the first time, reports were made available prior to the meeting. This saved a great deal of time and allowed opportunity to discuss these reports and other pertinent matters. The 1951 Annual Convention will be held at St. Paul, Minnesota. Two bids for the 1952 Convention were announced, one from the Bahamas, the other from New York City.

Tuesday evening the Museum Group presented two sound color movies: "The Oldest Art", part of the Franciscan Library of Ceramics; and "The Maya Through the Ages" presented through the courtesy of the United Fruit Company. This was open to all S.L.A. members and many took advantage of the opportunity.

Wednesday morning and afternoon were devoted to the business meetings of all the various Groups. The University and College Group voted to disband. The members will join other Groups of their particular interest.

The pièce de résistance was the banquet on Wednesday evening. Major General Edward Rose was the banquet speaker. His introductory remarks were almost worth the price of the banquet. His humor and good sense must have aided him considerably in his active career in business and military affairs. It was an occasion long to be remembered.

The annual business meeting of the Association was held both morning and afternoon on Thursday. It was voted to refer the controversial proposal about qualifications for active membership to next year's Constitution Committee. This undoubtedly saved much time and deferred heated arguments. However, the controversial proposal on balloting by mail for all changes in the Constitution was discussed at length. The amendment sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter was finally voted down, as was the amendment sponsored by the Montreal Chapter. This gave the members an opportunity to vote on the compromise amendment offered by the Constitution Committee. After many changes in the wording this compromise mail ballot amendment was voted and passed.

The Connecticut Valley Chapter received the Gavel Award for the largest percentage increase in membership. This Chapter, incidentally, has drawn members from the Boston Chapter that are employed in the Springfield area.

On Thursday evening the Geography and Map Group presented "Secret Land" the U.S. Navy film depicting Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Expedition. This was open to all S.L.A. members and was well worth seeing.

Friday was Philadelphia Day. The several Groups were entertained at various places of special interest throughout the city. Twenty members of the Boston Chapter attended the Convention in whole or in part, most of these being special librarians from the Boston area.

Bradford M. Hill
President
Boston Chapter

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Apparently the first SLA members to arrive at Atlantic City and the last to depart were Miss Gilda Rossetti from the Kirstein Business Branch and I. For the most part we attended the meetings of more general interest, although Miss Rossetti acted as secretary pro tem at a Business Group cocktail meeting and attended some of their other special sessions. We went to the opening day's luncheon, and feel that meeting fellow-librarians from so many types of organizations at this time and later on during the convention was the best part of the convention.

The most informative meeting we attended was the one on Sources of Information. Mr McCoy of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Chicago got down to brass tacks in naming specific titles, bureaus, boards, periodicals, etc. in the field of labor, leaving the listener with the feeling that with very brief notice he could set up a not discreditable labor library. Dr Murphey from the National Industrial Conference Board in New York explained how his organization gathers its facts -- mostly from questionnaires, annual reports of companies, rule books, and handbooks. The problems of obtaining foreign documents and how to select and obtain UN publications were set forth by Mrs Cabeen, Chief of Acquisitions at the UN Library. Again her suggestions were concrete and most helpful.

Rising early Thursday morning to attend the Geography and Map Group Session, I expected to find out all about the UN's map problems. Much to the chagrin of a couple of others and myself, nothing seemed to be happening in the Viking Room as scheduled. When a woman from Princeton and I finally got up courage enough to knock at the door of the private breakfast nook where some of the group had eaten earlier, we found that they had decided not to move from there. By that time the meeting was nearly ended, but we did hear about the new UN building in Manhattan and about the hope of having an interdepartmental committee on standardization of place names.

Friday was Philadelphia Day, a hot, sticky day with occasional torrents of rain. From a wide choice of places to which SLA members were invited, we chose the N. W. Ayer Co. Innocently relating it only to Ayer's Directory, we were amazed to find that it is one of the oldest and largest advertising companies in the country. Apologies were made for not showing us the library (!) so that we might hear the head of the art department explain the steps through which an advertisement goes from the first glimmer of an idea to its final printing. In this case the Ayer Co. had even persuaded the government to set a little forest fire in order to get an authentic natural color photograph. (We did hear the librarian explain the workings of the library, however.) In the afternoon we visited the Wharton School of Business and Finance and attended at tea at the University of Pennsylvania. At the latter we met an attractive girl who had worked in the American Library in London and whose desk now adjoins that of Miss Eleanor Devlin (formerly of the General Reference Department), and who had roamed about Europe last summer with Miss Honor McCusker (formerly Curator of English Literature).

Marjorie G. Bouquet

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COMPLIMENT FOR THE B.P.L. QUARTERLY

The June second issue of the London Times Literary Supplement had a pleasant review of the spring number of The Boston Public Library Quarterly. It is reprinted here:

The quarterly published by the trustees of the Boston Public Library gives a much greater space to general historical and literary papers than to bibliography as a technical study. It is true that the current number includes, in its back pages, some Notes on Rare Books and an instalment of the descriptive catalogue of the library's collection of the letters of R. W. Griswold, the critic and poet; but the body of the magazine is filled with articles of no less interest to readers across the breadth of America -- or, for that matter, across the Atlantic -- than to Bostonians. Among them the place of honour in this issue is taken by Mr Irving Bartlett's description of early Puritan attempts to convert the North American Indians to Christianity. It is a story of faithful and sympathetic labour by a very few men, among whom the name of John Eliot stands out; but the English Puritan

emigrants in general were indifferent to this missionary work, and Mr Bartlett's record draws on to its melancholy conclusion, with war between the English and Indians, cruelties on both sides, and growing mistrust and persecution even of the Christianized Indians of the "praying towns." No friendly relationship between Puritan and Indian was ever achieved: and the fault, the author concludes, was not wholly with either race.

Notes to the articles are conveniently assembled at the end of each, and here Mr Bartlett is able to draw attention to the Boston Library's rich collection of works about the Indians, on which his study is based. The editor of the Quarterly, Mr Zoltán Haraszti, has a further instalment of his history of the Book of Common Prayer, in which he discusses the Elizabethan measures against Dissenters and Roman Catholics. Here, too, the library's special resources for students of the subject are indicated, this time in parentheses inserted in the narrative. Two shorter articles are on "Johnson as Poet," by Mr J. R. Moore, and "Henry James's First Novel," by Mr Edward Stone.

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THE JULY ISSUE OF THE B.P.L. QUARTERLY

It was a hundred years ago -- on July 19, 1850 -- that Margaret Fuller, her husband the Marchese d'Ossoli, and their little son Angelo were shipwrecked on the coast of New Jersey, all three of them perishing in the sea. In commemoration of the event the forthcoming, July issue of The Boston Public Library Quarterly publishes a long article entitled "Margaret Fuller Centenary" written by Miss Margaret Munsterberg.

The article is based on the Library's exceptionally rich Fuller collection -- some three hundred manuscripts. Miss Munsterberg presents Margaret Fuller in her childhood and youth at Cambridge, as a teacher in the "progressive school" of Amos Bronson Alcott and in other schools at Groton and Providence, as a friend of Emerson, an observer of Brook Farm, a literary critic on Horace Greeley's New York Tribune, and finally as a resident of Rome where she married the Marchese d'Ossoli. The article brings out Margaret Fuller's exceptional powers as a pioneer of the woman's rights movement and as a fearless critic.

Another interesting article in the issue is Mrs Elaine Kimmelman's "The Palace of Pleasure," a detailed discussion of the first edition of William Painter's work printed in London in 1566 and 1567. A collection of tales translated from Latin, French, Spanish, and Italian sources. The Palace of Pleasure was one of the most significant books of the Elizabethan age. "Widely read, copied, and imitated," Mrs Kimmelman writes, "the work gave impetus to a host of attempts by native authors. But it played an especially important part in the development of the drama." The Palace of Pleasure has been placed on view in the Treasure Room -- the center of an exhibit of some fifty volumes, books from which the work was derived and plays which were based upon it.

A recent gift by Mr Albert H. Wiggin to the Print Department is a series of seventy-two original drawings from an early sketch-book of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. The drawings, which show Lautrec's amazing talent even before he had any art instruction have been described and commented upon by Mr Heintzelman.

In the last of a series of four articles on the history of the English Book of Common Prayer, begun in the October 1949 issue, Mr Haraszti offers an intimate view of the religious conflicts of the time of James I, with the story of the Hampton Court Conference, the Gunpowder Plot, the persecution of priests and Puritans, and the emigration to Holland and America. The study, like the earlier instalments, is based upon the rich store of first editions in the Prince and Benton Collections. The title of the article, "The 'Indusments' to Plymouth Plantation," is taken from the opening lines of William Bradford's great History -- for it was their sufferings during James's reign that prompted some of the Separatists to find a new and better home.

There are also shorter articles by Miss Ellen M. Oldham and Mrs Helen Duston.

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POPS

On Saturday evening, July 1, the members of the BPLPSA with their guests and friends enjoyed this season's closing night program at POPS. The weather was ideal, the house filled, and the program delightful.

Included were piano solos by Leo Litwin and selections from "Kiss Me Kate"; there were also several extras. It was a truly enjoyable evening -- our only regret was that there were so many who were unable to be present to share in our pleasure.

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OUTING AT CRANE'S BEACH

On the morning of July fourth, with menacing clouds hovering overhead and the John Hancock building forecasting rain, eighty-five Library employees and friends boarded three busses at Copley Square and set out on their annual excursion to Crane's Beach, Ipswich.

Arriving at Crane's Beach at 11:30, the hoarse but happy crowd was joined by those who had come in private cars. No time was lost in heading for the cool, refreshing water. Although showers dampened most of the material belongings of the group, it did not dampen their spirits. Games of softball and football were the highlights of the afternoon and early evening. Most of the group enjoyed swimming in the rain.

With much singing and laughter, the group left the beach at 8:30 p.m. and arrived safely in Copley Square at 10 p.m.

We wish to thank the Personnel Office and all the members of the Library staff who aided in making this outing a success.

Francis P. Connell
Open Shelf Department

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THEY APPRECIATE

May I express a word of gratitude to all who worked for the restitution of our salaries?

Thanks is given primarily to the Staff Association and to the Benefit Association (I am glad I am a member of both), and then to our "legal" representatives, Sidney Weinberg and Louis Polishook.

The two extra assistants in the Teachers Department, Barbara Cotter and Eleanor McCarty also wish to be on record as saying "Thank you".

(signed) Anna L. Manning
Teachers Department

June 22, 1950

*

29 June 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

May we in the Book Stack Service, who have had our salaries which were lost through theft on December 23, 1949, restored to us, express our thanks to everyone who assisted in making this possible, particularly B.P.L. Professional Staff Association; B.P.L. Benefit Association; Mr Weinberg and Mr Polishook.

We do appreciate their successful efforts.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Flora A. Ennis
Santa M. Koster
Florence McCarthy
Mary G. Chipman
Rose Sanft
Sarah K. Marshall
Mildred T. Morrissey
Helen R. McMahon

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CARE

The Committee on CARE is pleased to report that several letters have been received from the recent recipients of CARE packages. We thought that a few excerpts from these letters would speak for themselves and prove to you that CARE is still a source of good moral courage and great happiness that so much generosity and friendship still exists.

From Tel-Aviv

"Only a signature but written from the heart."

From France

"With all our true gratitude please accept our thousand thanks-and-good thoughts from France for you, your family, and your country."

From Germany

"We thank you in this way with all our hearts. We shall never forget this deed of yours as also that of the American people, how they after the crash had mercy on the suffering peoples. We wish that this human help may be the best corner-stone for lasting peace among the peoples."

From Italy

"I thank you most heartily for your most generous gift which has come."

From Czechoslavakia

"We thank you very much for your very precious gifts and pray God He may be your reward here and in eternity, and wish His rich blessing for your work."

Sincerely yours,

Helen L. Lambert, Chairman
Doris N. French
Florence K. Goodman
Bertha Keswick

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BPL AND BPL

The Boston Public Library has at least three things in common with the Buffalo Public Library. Each is the BPL; each publishes a BPL News; and each has an active group of older people in the community who are carrying on interesting programs for their enjoyment and information. Here it is "The Never Too Late Group", numbering 230 and meeting weekly; there it is "The Golden Age Club", numbering 75 and meeting bi-monthly.

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BRANCH NOTES

Neponset

This Branch Library was the scene of gay festivities at a farewell party for members of the staff.

Miss Catherine C. Kelly plans a Holy Year pilgrimage with Archbishop Cushing and party. They will visit the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal; Rome, Florence, Venice in Italy; Ireland; France; Switzerland; Austria; and in Germany they will see the Passion Play at Oberammergau.

Miss Barbara Reney leaves the service to enter the novitiate in the order of St. Joseph at Framingham, and Mr William Allen, who aspires to be a missionary priest enters the Maryknoll Fathers' Order at Lakewood, New Jersey.

We wish all these good people bon voyage and all happiness in the roads they follow.

South Boston

On June 21, the staff gave a party to the extras in honor of those graduating. Especial guest of honor was Miss Veronica Yotts, who received her A.B. from Boston University where she majored in social sciences. Mr Sumner Ferris was awarded by Boys' Latin School a scholarship for four years at Harvard University and a second for $300.00. Miss Caroline McEwan won from South Boston High School a scholarship to Teacher's College and an English award.

South End

The summer reading club is progressing nicely at the South End Branch Library. On one of the tables in the Children's room is a display featuring "The Open Gate," which is a real little gate painted blue in best Pennsylvania Dutch tradition set in the middle of a white picket fence. Inside the fence is a nice garden scene, which includes a thatched-roof cottage, a pond, and a live maple tree with a swing hanging from the branches. Paper dolls representing the boys and girls of the club stand within "The Open Gate.". This display was created by Mrs Anna Lou Shanor, assistant in the Children's room, with the help of her husband.

West End

The staff has been very busy during the month of June assembling deposits and special collections of books from its extensive and widely-known Judaica Collection for use in many summer study groups and camps. If ever proof was needed as to its value, these annual floods of requests for Judaica provide it beyond a shadow of a doubt.

*

The staff of the Children's Room has been playing host to the various neighborhood settlement houses and day camps this summer. The Salvation Army Day Camp children are regular weekly visitors, who come to look at the attractive new book jackets, see the new picture books, and -- most important of all -- to listen wide-eyed to the stories told by the Children's Librarian and other members of the staff.

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Music

It has been interesting to note that the following persons have recently used this department for research:

Professor Walter L. Fertig, Wabash College, researching on J. S. Dwight.

Professor Clamona Beard, Florida State University, researching on the Organ.

Mr Frank Hubbard, research on manufacture of harpsichords.

Professor Max Peterson, M. I. T., research on Bach's viola Concertos.

Mr Josef Zimbler, Boston Symphony Orchestra, research on German Lieder and their interpretation.

Mr Lucas Foss, research on Mozart pianoforte Concertos.

Mr Andre Chardon, Conductor, Florida Symphony Orchestra.

Open Shelf

On Wednesday, July 12, the members of the Open Shelf Department entertained Miss Louisa Metcalf at luncheon at the Pioneer in honor of her recent appointment as Reader's Adviser.

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SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

To the Editor:

The employees of the Boston Public Library are human and possess, beneath their coldly professional facades, certain human feelings. The desire to advance in one's calling, the urge to attain a better paying position, the dislike of being kept in doubt as to one's future are so common as to be termed universal emotions. The suspense of awaiting a decision that so directly affects an individual as a promotion in his work is, in the ordinary course of events, disturbing enough without having added to it the "alarums and excursions" of the past year.

Consequently, the failure of the Administration to make the announcements of promotions on June 20th as scheduled in a notice from the Director to members of the staff dated 19 May 1950 cannot help but do irreparable harm to staff morale. Granted that the notice read, "probably on or before June 20th", the facts are that a definite date was mentioned and it was intimated that there was a fair chance that announcements would be made prior to June 20th. It is also a matter of record that the vacancies to positions referred to in the abovementioned notice of 19 May 1950 were originally announced as of 1 July 1949! And in a notice dated 1 December 1949 the Director announced that appointments would be made effective as early as possible in 1950!

We admit that appointments to titular positions require grave consideration, time-consuming conferences, and innumerable interviews. Nonetheless, it would seem reasonable to expect that after almost a year of considering, contemplating, interviewing, and conferring, a date could have been set and met! There was no compulsion on the part of the Administration to set a date for announcing appointments! After almost a year of deliberation, there was no necessity for specifying any date if it were not sure that the deadline could be met. The setting of a date, although admittedly tentative, was a voluntary act on the part of the Administration. Having set the date, it was an act bordering on mental cruelty to let it pass with no word forthcoming.

Can it be that an administration that has paid so much lip service to the importance of personnel problems and relationships is totally unaware of the terribly damaging effect such a course of action must have on the morale of the staff? We estimate that approximately seventy-five interviews were given in connection with the announced vacancies that were to be filled. That means that approximately

seventy-five people were expecting, and had every reason to expect, that their doubts and uncertainties would be resolved on or before June 20, 1950.

Seventy-five individuals comprise a sizable segment of the library staff. It is hardly to be expected that their efficiency and capacity for work improved as their tension mounted. It is also questionable whether those of them who meet the public were inclined to be sweeter and more charming as their anxiety increased. It is highly probably that a not inconsiderable amount of time was spent in whispered speculations as that long awaited June 20th wore on and no announcements arrived.

SERVUS INDIGNATUS

June 26, 1950

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My belated congratulations to the Administration. As a ten o'clock scholar, who has lost many a diller and dollar because of his dilatory habits, I am happy to find myself in such excellent company. Here it is a full year after the original announcements of vacancies to titular positions and to date (June 28, 1950) no announcements of the filling of those vacancies have been forthcoming.

Personally, I admire the independence of spirit which engenders such delay. Why be a slave to an alarm clock -- or a calendar? Let carping critics, full of splenetic worship of punctilio say what they will, there is a grand sense of freedom in being able to ignore a deadline. After all, are deadlines made for men or men for deadlines?

Of course, it is only human, too, to enjoy the jolly good humor of the situation; the discomfort which our conduct causes others. For instance, have you ever noticed how purple in the face and foaming around the chops the boss gets when you stroll casually in twenty minutes late and she has been running the department single-handed since nine o'clock (besides the humor of this, there is a very practical side to the policy of being late since it might eventually cause the boss to be carried off by a stroke thereby creating another vacancy to a titular position which, we feel, we are yet young enough to see filled). Well, the chief's vivid purple hue is as nothing compared to the apopletic look of the people who have been standing around waiting to find out if they've been promoted. Land sakes - more fun!!

To be sure, there are very good reasons for such tardiness. There are always good reasons for being tardy. I, myself, wouldn't think of being tardy without a good reason. I always carry a few spare good reasons in my poke just in case I should be tardy. For example:

The baby fell out of the deep-freezer.
The cat climbed out on a limb and I had to take her down.
I was hit by a truck.
My rich uncle died and left me some money and I was up all night figuring what to do with it.

You see, it's easy to find good reasons.

This thing is bigger than any of us. We are perhaps in on the birth of a great revolutionary movement in management -- a National Procrastination Movement. Let's all join in. Let's have more delays in getting books. Less of this coming in to work on the dot. And above all, let's not get those announcements out on time.

Cunctator

*

The old saying "Rob Peter to pay Paul" now has been changed to "Rob Peter to please Paul" by the forty percent cut in branch book quotas. Who doesn't like a new, clean library book whether he is a patron of Open Shelf Department or his neighborhood branch library? Why put $20,000 worth of books into Open Shelf Department just because it is moving to new quarters? Circulation will increase any way, in fact, it is increasing steadily in its cramped, inadequate rooms. There is money for salary increases, new positions, a new branch library, and a Bookmobile but branch book funds are cut forty percent. Books are our stock in trade, our tools, our raison d'etre. Without books we perish. Dirty, shabby, odoriferous, faded books are not the answer to the patron's prayer "Give me a good book, please".

*

To the Soap Box Editor:

The recent cut in quotas for the purchase of books in all units of the Division of

Home Reading and Community Services with the exception of the Branch Issue Department, in order to expend twenty thousand dollars for books for the new Open Shelf Department, is most unfortunate.

The decision of the Trustees to devote such a large sum of money for the purchase of books for the exclusive use of one department sets a dangerous precedent. It sacrifices thirty-two units serving all parts of the city for the benefit of one unit which can serve only a limited number of people even though it is located in the Central Library. Actually a very small per cent of borrowers using Branch Libraries (with the exception of the Branch Libraries in town) ever have occasion to avail themselves of the facilities at the Central Library by going there personally.

Whereas this step may have merit as a demonstration (by focusing on one department) of what can be accomplished when a department has books in sufficient quantities, it is a matter of opinion if this is offset by the unfavorable public relations incurred in all other parts of the city where it will be impossible to meet either the demands for current titles or to replace needed material. It has been shown that circulation increases in accordance with the supply of desirable books -- on this point there is no doubt. Yet the Branch Libraries on the present quotas cannot have sufficient books to satisfy the most casual borrowers, not to mention the regular patrons who are steady readers. The Branch Issue Department collection is a tremendous help but it does not take the place of adequate book stock in a Branch Library. It is to be sincerely hoped that such a procedure will never be resorted to again since it weakens the possibility of service to a drastic extent for so many borrowers and over such a wide area, regardless of the location of the unit chosen for demonstration.

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MATERIAL OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

Save the libraries. Norman Cousins. Saturday Review of Literature, July 1, 1950, pp. 22-24.

An editorial adapted from an address delivered by the editor of the Saturday Review of Literature at the recent dedication of the Charles Hayden Memorial Library of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The author calls upon the American university to play its role in a far-reaching mobilization of the moral, intellectual and physical resources of our democratic society to meet the problems of inadequate public library support, and the vastly increased need for a new concept of adult education.

Choosing "Notable Books" poses serious problem. Terese Flaherty, Chief, Book Selection Department, Detroit Public Library. Library Journal, July 15, 1950, pp. 1076, 1078.

Pertinent criticism of the A. L. A.'s present system established for the annual compilation of "Notable books". Mrs Flaherty questions whether the selection has become a matter of logistics, and compares it to the quartermaster corps "which has to get a load on the firing line without being sure what should make up the load or where to find the firing line." She cites the experience of the Detroit Public Library committee, which was invited to participate in the 1949 selection, to support her plea for more clearly defined and better standards of selection, and for re-timing the selection period, if these lists are really to further the educational purpose of the library rather than accelerate the reading of books which are well publicized by commercial interests. This discussion is of special interest because of the fact that it reflects in part opinions also expressed by some of the members of the B. P. L. committees which participated in the 1948 and 1949 selections.

L. S. M.

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THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume V, Number 8 August 1950

Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, M. Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

In July "The Question Mark" did not appear on the fifteenth; for this we offer apologies and our assurance that the delay was unavoidable.

Delighted that inquiries were received concerning its non-appearance, we confidently concluded that the paper had achieved a certain degree of importance and was read from cover to cover. Alas! That was just the "pride that goeth before a fall". As we prepare the August issue, we wonder if the July issue was read at all. Then we humorously conclude (and we've suspected this all along!) that "The Question Mark" is not read in the usual, systematic order -- from first to last page; but, rather, in reverse -- from Soap Box to Editor's Corner. And in this particular instance, we suspect that many people stopped somewhere in between. Why? Because, on page one, we invited discussion of book circulation vs. the media which are giving it stiff competition, and there have been no responses. There, also, we extended an invitation to all who attended the ALA Conference to share with those who did not go the highlights of the week. Sixteen persons attended; six have sent in contributions.

Many conclusions could be reached. The season of the year bids us be charitable and charge the seeming lack of interest in circulation and ALA to an even greater interest in that all-absorbing phenomenon -- the summer vacation. That is, after all, only human.

Vacations are given to afford an opportunity for rest, relaxation, travel, and, above all, change, so that the year ahead may be faced with a fresh perspective and with new courage. Therefore, we offer what we consider to be a most appropriate editorial thought for this time of year: Since good health is a decidedly important factor on anyone's rating sheet, keep it at its best by enjoying every minute of every vacation, no matter when you take it or where you spend it.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Miss Ruth V. Marshall, Teachers' Department. Miss Marshall formerly worked on a part-time basis in the Information Office.

Miss Elizabeth A. Sarjeant, Book Stack Service. Miss Sarjeant formerly worked on a part-time basis in the Branch Issue Department.

Miss Helen M. Mitchell, East Boston Branch Library.

Miss Virginia Lyons, Kirstein Business Branch.

Miss Margaret R. Bowers, Dorchester Branch Library.

Transfers

Miss Joan Donlon, Personnel Office to Director's Office.

Miss Jean E. Watson, Director's Office to Business Office.

Miss Claire C. Spellman, Book Stack Service to Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Engagements

Miss Gloria Oxman, Book Stack Service, to Mr Arthur B. Becker of Norwich, Connecticut. Mr Becker is a student at Boston University.

Marriages

Miss Alice E. Bulman, Connolly Branch Library, was married on August 6, 1950 to Mr Daniel J. Galvin.

Resignations

Mrs Grace P. Von Euw, Book Stack Service, to remain at home.

Mr Walter H. Thorpe, Shipping Department, to accept another position.

Military Service

Mr Lawrence R. Bushey, Fine Arts Department, entered the U. S. Navy.

Births

Announcement has been made of the birth of a daughter, Pamela Ann, to Mr and Mrs Francis W. Fichter, on July 21, 1950. Mr Fichter is a member of the staff of the Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Mr and Mrs Theodore Von Euw are the proud parents of a son, Theodore Jr., born on July 1. Mrs Grace Von Euw formerly worked in the Book Stack Service; Mr Von Euw is a former member of the Book Preparation Department.

*

Mr Michael J. Doyle, a carpenter in the Buildings Department from 1937 until his transfer to the City of Boston Transit Department in 1947, passed away July 21, 1950.

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PARTIES

On Tuesday July 18, the staff of Jeffries Point Branch Library entertained Miss Margaret Crosby, part-time assistant, at a surprise luncheon. A popular member of the staff for almost two years, Miss Crosby entered the convent on August 1, joining the order of the Sisters of Notre Dame. A gift of money was presented to her by her co-workers, who wish her great happiness in her new life.

*

On Wednesday, July 19, Mrs Pauline Vinci gave a shower in the Women's Lounge for Miss Patricia Morley, a member of the office staff of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services. The shower was attended by many of Miss Morley's library friends, including Mrs Mary Hart Canavan and Miss Marie McKenney, former members of the Circulation Division Office. The bride-to-be received beautiful and useful gifts for her new home.

*

Miss Claire V. Sanderson was the guest of honor at a dinner party given by the staff of the Kirstein Business Branch at Patten's on July 31, 1950. Miss Sanderson is to marry Mr Donald F. Grushey on September 9, 1950 at St. Augustine's Church in South Boston. The staff presented the future bride with Revere Ware. Miss Winifred F. Root wrote a most delightful poem for the occasion, and Miss Elaine D. Parsons baked a cake which was really a work of art. Bridal decorations were designed by Miss Sona Semerjian.

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BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY
to

Miss Christine Hayes, Chief of Book Selection for Reference and Research Services, as she recuperates at 17 West Central Street, Natick, Massachusetts, after her recent operation.

*

Miss Patricia Wilson, Assistant, Sub-Professional Library Service, Allston Branch Library, who is recovering at home from an accident which took place on July 31. Miss Wilson fell off the platform at Columbia Station when she was overcome by the heat. She narrowly escaped electrocution when her foot came into contact with the third rail. Her foot was badly burned.

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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Mr Bradford M. Hill has been reappointed Editor of SORT, the bulletin of the Staff Organizations Round Table for 1950-51.

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GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Windermere
The Lake District
July 26, 1950

I wish that I were able to do justice to this beautiful place with the same literary facility used by those who walked these paths in decades past. Alas, I can only use plain undiluted English strongly tinged with American. However, I don't feel too badly about it for I doubt if anyone could adequately describe this beautiful countryside. At the moment we are awaiting tea in a charming little garden on the shores of Lake Windermere. Our hotel is directly across the lake. We came here on the penny-ferry, car and all, and shall return by the same expensive route. This morning we took a trip up the Lake by motor launch. The hills, tier upon tier, rise directly from the Lake shore. Here and there are dotted private homes, several large hotels, and even one castle for good measure. The sky is a vivid blue dotted with fleecy white clouds, large and small. I wish I could tell you about the trip across the Atlantic. I, who have an aversion for boats, even I enjoyed every minute. "My day" in London surpasses anything Mrs Roosevelt ever experienced in any one of her "days". I doubt if she ever walked miles and miles through the London streets, rode the water bus, talked to innumerable Bobbies (all of them very polite and helpful), took trams here and there, "did" the Tower, St. Paul's, Westminster, St. Margaret's, Mme. Tussand's, had tea in Marylebone High, and dinner in Picadilly -- all in one short day. Miss Morgan and I did just that, and came out so well versed in London ways that several people asked us to direct them to certain places and we could do it! Space forbids that I go into any detail about Oxford, Stratford-on-Avon (saw Henry VIII, at the Shakespeare there), this beautiful Lake District, and the country in between points. The tiny villages in the Cotswolds, the rolling hills and the stone-walled fields of the Midlands which utterly belie my concept of an industrial Midlands, all are beyond my feeble powers of description. Our "tea" just came -- butter scones, tiny cress sandwiches, tea, and "sweets", served on a lawn (I mean on a table on a lawn) with a garden at our back, a tiny cottage at our right, and the waves of Lake Windermere lapping the shore about twenty-five feet from our table! What more could one ask! It is well that we do not go to Scotland until tomorrow for if I had more to tell you about I could never air-mail this letter.

Many thanks to all those who sent gifts, letters, telegrams, and cards to help speed me on my way.

Edna G. Peck

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A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL BARGAIN

The July issue of The Library Quarterly has a review of the first two numbers of The B.P.L. Quarterly by Mr Deoch Fulton, Editor of Publications at the New York Public Library. We reprint it here:

Green felt bags are not so common in Boston as they were some years ago, but probably the well-worn leather of today contains the same elements for bodily and mental health -- rubbers, sandwiches, books, and papers.

In 1867 the Boston Public Library began the publication of a Bulletin and, with varying titles and periods of publication, continued to do so through 1948. More Books, sixth and last of the series, was published monthly from 1926 through December, 1948. The green-felt Bulletin, as title or sub-title, has disappeared, but the contents of the new bag, except for some parochial matters, are substantially the same.

For twenty-three years, under the care of Dr. Zoltán Haraszti, keeper of rare books and editor of publications of the Boston Public Library, More Books brilliantly reflected the constructive and imaginative scholarship which has characterized the development of the library's collections. It did not lay out neatly catalogued rows of bibliographical bones but sought rather to give life to the skeleton. It was good reading, appreciated by the scholar and interesting to the layman.

The Quarterly promises to uphold the

tradition of excellence established by More Books. The library's announcement of the new publication and the contents of the first two issues give assurance that the range of subject will be as wide and the treatment as unhackneyed as before. Dr. Haraszti continues as both editor and contributor. Arthur W. Heintzelman, keeper of prints, Miss Margaret Munsterberg, and other members of the library staff whose articles and notes were pleasant features of More Books will also contribute to the Quarterly. There will be articles by scholars not on the library staff.

The contents of the first issue are presumably typical of those to follow. They include: "John Adams and Turgot," by Zoltan Haraszti; "Pantaloon as Shylock," by John Robert Moore; "Thomas Sergeant Perry and Henry James," by Virginia Harlow; "The Correspondence of R. W. Griswold"; "The Lithographs of Fantin-Latour," by Arthur W. Heintzelman; and five "Notes on Rare Books."

Although the purpose of the Quarterly will be primarily to conduct bibliographical tours through the resources of the library, Boston's collections are so varied and its editorial guides so deft that each trip will be fresh and delightful. John Winterich named More Books one of the two best bibliographical bargains in America, and, even at the increased price, that would still seem to be true of the Quarterly.

Readers of More Books will miss the thoughtful selection and good reviewing of "Ten Books" each month. The lists of accessions and gifts and the "Library Notes" were often helpful to other institutions, but these were chiefly of local or professional interest. The cosmopolitan character of the library's publishing stands out more clearly without them.

The Quarterly is sewed, with a square back and a light-blue paper wrapper printed in black that has no ornament than the seal of the library. The smaller size -- $23\frac{1}{2}$ x $15\frac{1}{2}$ cm. -- is more convenient to handle than More Books, and the good paper is a pleasant change...

Boston does not change everything all of a sudden. Typographically, the Quarterly is reminiscent of Boston's hats. Someone once asked: "Where do the Boston ladies buy their hats?" -- "Buy our hats? We have our hats." And very sensible, too.

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Mr Fulton is a New Yorker -- no doubt about that. We herewith extend to him our Boston cordiality, the lady members of the staff promising him a fashion show of their entirely new hats.

Z. H.

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CARE

Autumn is coming, and bringing with it the ominous shadow of another war to an apprehensive and war-weary world. Once again, hunger, pain, and desolation faces those who have not yet forgotten the last war. Fearful and waiting, all eyes are turned to us. We must not fail them. If we do, democracy, freedom, and peace will only be meaningless words. Our small part in this is to keep on sending CARE packages. They are our tokens of goodwill and reassurance that we are standing by and that we will be there when most needed.

Special Committee on CARE

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A TRAVELER RETURNS

It seems rather strange to be writing from my usual desk in the Print Department, but here I am back again. I have done so much since my last letter which I see was dated April 15 that I wonder what would be of most interest.

In May I went to Holland to absorb a bit of Rembrandt; paintings, etchings, and drawings. I stayed at The Hague with Honor McCusker, who is now back in the States. It was a wonderful change to be met at the train by a familiar friend, and to have a pleasant place to go instead of the usual hotel accommodations. Even in May it was very comfortable to sit around a small fire while we caught up on all the Library affairs of the past few years and talked about all manner of things. All of the major cities are within easy distance of The Hague so I was able to make side trips to Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

Rotterdam was rather a shock -- it was my first real visit to a city destroyed during the war. It is only by seeing these bomb-damaged places that even a small sense of the horror that it must have been can be realized. Fortunately the Museum Boymans escaped damage and I was able to see some of their marvelous drawings, as well as an exhibition of superb etchings by Rembrandt from the De Bruijn Collection. These impressions are considered among the finest in the world. Seeing them is like a revelation. The climax, of course, was the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam where I saw the celebrated "Night Watch" which has been beautifully cleaned and just glows with richness and color. The Director of the Print Room, Mr Van Rechtigen Altena, showed me some of the most important Rembrandt drawings, and personally took me through Rembrandt's house in Amsterdam, where there is also a fine collection of his prints. While in Amsterdam I had the opportunity to meed Dr Bierens de Haan, an authority and collector of prints, and in The Hague to see a part of the collection of Dr Fritz Lugt. It was quite an exhausting week, but unfortunately had to be a short one because of committments in Paris.

Another event which comes to mind was the "Grande Nuit de Paris", which took place on the first of July. I'm inclined to think it was something in the nature of a dress rehearsal for Bastille Day, which takes place on the fourteenth. There were supposed to be fireworks which had taken two years to develop and which were to be shot from the several floors of the Tour Eiffel. A great pageant was planned to take place on a floating stage on the Seine in front of the Palais de Chaillot (Trocadero). Tickets were rather hard to get and the majority of people were just milling about in the streets hoping to see something that way. My friends and I were among the crowd, but we found very good "front row" seats on the curbstone on the Pont de la Concorde, where we had a very good view of the Tour Eiffel. The crowd grew thicker and thicker and the hour later and later. Finally at midnight instead of 11 p.m. the fireworks began, after much blinking of lights on the Tour. The fireworks lasted all of one half an hour and we kept saying among ourselves that the best ones would be coming soon -- but nothing more came. The following day we heard that there had been mechanical difficulties with the floating stage and not much had happened for the ticket holders either. It was, however, a gala night, with all Paris illuminated and her fountains going. The Tour Eiffel was illuminated for the first time in over ten years, and all of the other important monuments were brilliant with light. I have never seen anything quite as beautiful as the Place de la Concorde, with floodlights on all the buildings and on the fountains -- it is the Paris one dreams of. Another particularly impressive scene is from the small Arc de Triomphe (near the Louvre) looking down through the Tuilleries, across the Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe (at the Etoile). The illuminated Obelisk at the Place de la Concorde and the lights on the lintel of the Arc de Triomphe form a cross when seen from such a distance. Unfortunately Paris lights up and uses water for fountains only on special occasions.

Muriel C. Figenbaum

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ALA HIGHLIGHTS

American Association of School Libraries

Three days of pre-conference sessions brought together workers with children and young people from all sections of the country. They gathered in the ballroom of the Hollenden Hotel in Cleveland, where materials and exhibits were assembled for the Materials Work Conference: Growing in Democracy. Displays were effectively arranged from materials gathered and sent in by local librarians. They served to bring out the point that we frequently overlook materials close at hand. Since books are our most important tools, excellent booklists were provided for the various sections of the pre-conference. These were prepared and distributed by the A.A.S.L. and it is interesting to note that the majority of the titles listed were published within the past five years.

Not all the speakers saw library service from the same point of view but there was evident a certain pattern in most of the talks. The important factors applied equally well to work with adults as to

work with young people. To summarize:

The dominant theme was the duty to help our constituents to develop the ability to live happily, usefully, and intelligently with themselves in school, community, nation, and world. They felt there was a process of growth towards maturity and the good life, and that librarians must aid in this growth. It was emphasized that while growth was unified, there were wide variations in rate of growth and range of adjustment. Consequently librarians must understand individual differences if they would help others to survive in the environment of the world today.

All the speakers spoke optimistically of the chances for the survival of our civilization, but indicated that survival depended on present preparation for the future. The speakers were unanimous in feeling that responsibility for the future of the world rests with the peoples of the United States; that here are developing the forces and factors which are shaping the world and society for tomorrow.

The youth of today must be educated to know and recognize problems facing them and they must be equipped to carry on. Curriculums must be developed to meet the needs, interests, and problems of our young people, who must be taught to think. In the matter of growth, thinking is an essential part. All agreed that this thinking must be functional and that growth in culture was not possible without nurture, the nurture of books. Most of the speakers felt that there were no non-readers (except for a few clinical cases) and that books and reading were not going out of style; and that a wide selection of books and materials in all areas of knowledge should be made available to all readers. Materials should be of all types: books, pictures, pamphlets, text books, periodicals, etc., and should be related to the needs of the user. Quick accessibility is an essential element in arranging material. There are many resources we leave untapped. Materials may be gathered from both adults and young people in our communities, teachers, local and national industries, state and federal governments. New approaches and new bibliographical materials may be required. Librarians must find a way to free themselves from old stereotypes and find time to experiment if they would hold their own.

This is the challenge to libraries and librarians that they make of their libraries a strategic center which promotes understanding, for what we make available determines the reading and social attitudes of the future. It should be the librarian's aim to stimulate the interests of patrons and to help develop a thinking citizenry. If we could help give the world one Pasteur, or Einstein, or Conant of the future, our work would be well done.

Ruth M. Hayes

Division of Libraries for Children and Young People

This year marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Children's Library Association of the ALA. The annual Newbery-Caldecott Dinner on Tuesday, July 18, was climaxed by a procession of candled cakes carried through the darkened room. As a keepsake of this memorable occasion, Crowell Publishers gave each guest a copy of Elinor Parker's beautiful "Birthday Garland". A General Session Thursday morning also honored CLA's mid-century mark. Louise Seaman Bechtel, book review editor of the New York Herald Tribune, spoke on "Looking forward and backward in children's reading".

The Division opened its week's sessions with a joint meeting with the Library Extension Division, County and Regional Libraries. A panel discussion evaluated Bookmobile service to schools as it supplements school libraries. In cases where Bookmobile service is designed to supplement curriculum reading in the schools, the general opinion was that schools should pay for such service.

On Monday afternoon the three-part program of the Association of Young People's Librarians began with a lively panel on "How can the librarian of a small library which has no Young People's Department best serve the teen-age reader?" Nooks, special shelves, and book reviews by the young people themselves all play a vital part, but of major importance is the need for staff cooperation in serving these teen-agers. A librarian specially trained in work with Young People cannot bring about desired results alone; all personnel regardless of rating levels should help promote the teen-ager's reading habits. A dissenting voice to the segregation of

young people was Martha Grey, Public Library, Troy, Ohio, where the Young People's Room is a thing of the past. Teen-agers felt a separate room was a means of restricting them from the regular adult section; now adult cards are issued to children upon finishing eighth grade. This new trend in this library has created a better attitude toward the library on the part of the teen-agers themselves.

The new Holladay Memorial Library for Young People, Indianapolis, was brought to life for us in an enthusiastic report by Dorothy Lawson, Librarian. This library, designed for recreation rather than reference, is replete with club rooms, fireplace, and coke machine. Its activities range from serious Great Books discussion groups and author talks to square dancing and musical productions. "Library and Radio Programming for Teen-agers" as practiced by Carnegie Library was the last talk on this most enjoyable program.

At a Tuesday luncheon, J. Donald Adams emphatically claimed that the adolescence period is too prolonged in this country, and there should be no intermediary stage between books for young people and adults. Young minds should be exposed to great minds which have expressed truth forcefully. Biography should not be rehashed for teen-agers if they can be induced to read adult versions.

In addition to the longer program meetings, the AYPL held one-hour provocative discussions on specific books for young people every morning at 8:30.

The Division held its General Session Thursday afternoon. The theme, "Good books for ALL children and youth", was presented by two speakers. Ruth Gagliardo of Kansas spoke on existing needs for books and libraries in the U. S. Mrs. Ethel Gilbert of UNESCO gave a moving plea for aid to and promotion of UNESCO's purposes in rebuilding minds and souls. She was by far one of the most dynamic and compelling speakers at the Convention.

Children's editors of the Children's Book Council were honored at a luncheon followed by a discussion on "the needs and trends in children's books" with Frances Clarke Sayers as moderator. It was agreed that more emphasis is needed on child play and less on word lists and grade levels. Also discussed were the relative values of book reviews written by children as a basis for book selection.

At the last session of CLA, May Hill Arbuthnot of Western Reserve spoke on "Children's reading in today's world and one to grow on.." She stressed that books must give the child a zest and a reverence for life, especially since children in this generation are growing up in an unhappy and insecure world.

Mrs Iphigenia K. Fillios

Public Relations Workshop

The Public Relations Pre-Conference Workshop, held July 16, 1950, was lively and interesting, hot and crowded, and those who attended "got their money's worth", as the ALA Public Relations Committee guaranteed.

Mr Harold Hamill, the Chairman, spoke briefly about the demonstrators who were to talk and set up a few displays, and about the demonstrations covering the walls, which had been sent to Cleveland by various Librarians. He then turned the meeting over to the well-known Kate Coplan of the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore.

Miss Coplan had had many display units and accessories shipped to the Cleveland Library. In her introductory remarks she told of being given the assignment of keeping the then new Library windows the talk of Baltimore, and the Library world, at which point she said that she had not been sure whether she had acquired a fine new job, or had lost an excellent old one. She then proceeded to give some sound advice about display work. She dwelt on the facts that Librarians must be ever display conscious, and that the persons doing the work must have intelligence, imagination, and resourcefulness without belonging to the 5 H Society ("Hell, how he hates himself"). Miss Coplan suggested that where there were not good display units, or not enough space in a library, the Librarian might borrow vacant store windows in the business district and in the residential area of her city. She stated that she and an elderly assistant did this even though they actually had to wash the store windows and the window platform. Miss Coplan's staff borrows material freely from stores, manufacturers, and individuals whenever possible. She suggested: Use old items as well as new; use color; have infinite patience in mounting exhibits; listen to other Librarians; and

exhibit anything that will tie up with the Library's books, periodicals, and pictures. Miss Coplan and her assistants then set up a typical display for a window. As everyone knows, these Enoch Pratt Library windows are large and near enough to the sidewalks for passersby to easily view what is displayed therein. A standard size sheet of "Insulite" board is painted the required color; cut letters from the same material (or beaver board) are painted a contrasting color and pinned onto the backboard; a three dimensional figure, or object, is added, or possibly book jackets are used; and the books, or periodicals, or pictures are arranged on the shelf of the window. Photographs are taken of every exhibit. These are bound annually, and other Librarians may borrow them.

Answers to questions I submitted during the question and answer period brought out:

1. At Baltimore the branches use their own ingenuity for their displays and the publicity staff at Central supplies the posters, the insulite back boards, and letters painted the desired colors. These are returned to Central when the exhibit is over. There is a fund in the budjet for the Display Section and it is spent on branch as well as central exhibits.
2. The Chicago Librarian said she painted twelve posters and had a commercial printing house reproduce about sixty-five copies by silk screen process. A copy of each poster is sent to each branch. This is costly and not completely successful as the Branch Librarian may have an opportunity to display material owned by a local individual, or group, which always builds the best relations in the neighborhood.
3. The Minneapolis Library Public Relations man stated that he has "package displays" in central that the branches may borrow, but the Branch Librarians have considerable freedom in planning and mounting their own shows.
4. The Librarian from the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh stated that her artist assistant makes the posters for the branches on written request.

The answer was "No" to question; "Does anyone from central go to the branches to set up exhibits?" The consensus of opinion seemed to be that the Branch Librarian should decide on her own exhibits. She should then send a work order to central with a rough sketch of the posters desired and the date on which they will be needed.

The first part of the afternoon session was devoted to a panel discussion of newspaper, radio, and television publicity. Mr Young, the Public Relations Librarian at Cleveland, enjoys the happy position of having offices of the city's large daily papers located next door to the Library. The radio and television stations are close to the Library also.

Miss Robertson of the Tacoma Public Library told of her experiences and urged that the full story, that is, the who, how, when, where, and what be included in the first paragraph of the releases. She warned of getting releases to the editor in plenty of time for publication, and laughingly added that even when the item appeared in garbled form the editor is still right (He will be needed again next week).

Mr Hamill and an assistant told of one particular publicity campaign they put on concerning a town planning exhibit. The citizens of rapidly growing Los Angeles are very conscious of the need of proper expansion.

The second part of the afternoon program was conducted by Mr Young of the Cleveland Public Library. He and his staff showed posters they had made, and one of them, an elderly man with the "deadest pan" I've ever seen, printed some signs, while a younger man (by name, Oliver Cromwell) set up a small book-display. The Cleveland Librarians use little cut-out letters, whereas the Enoch Pratt Staff do more with cut-out figures and alphabets than with painted posters.

After this demonstration a tour of the Library was conducted by the Staff. Cleveland, with display units on all floors of the building has both permanent and temporary exhibits.

I met and talked with a number of Librarians doing display work, as the Library Public Relations Group, of which I am now a member, had a booth in the auditorium. This group also had a picnic out on the Lake one afternoon, which afforded me another opportunity to torture more of them. They were very friendly and willingly answered all questions. It was an excellent investment.

Thomas J. Manning

Staff Organizations Round Table

The Thursday panel discussion, Cooperative Administrative Activities, was presided over by Miss Wilma Waite. The three speakers were Miss Marian McFadden, Librarian of the Indianapolis Public Library, Miss Dorothy Heiderstadt, staff member of the Kansas City Public Library, and Mrs Rosalie N. Spellman, staff member of the Witchita (Kansas) City Library.

Miss McFadden stated that, since she had risen step by step through various positions in libraries, she felt that she knew considerable about the functions, problems, and activities of library workers. She stated further that she had outlined the responsibilities of administration and staff to each other; had helped inaugurate a staff organization; and had helped form other committees. She thinks that the Librarian should not be a member of the staff organization; she, herself, is now barred from the association which she helped to form. Her belief is that the line between a staff association and the administration is fine and that there should be close cooperation between the two. She mentioned the comforts of the staff at her own library, and a few of the problems which seemed unimportant to many but meant considerable to a few individuals. She learned of these conditions through an individual and then consulted the staff association representative. She laughingly stated that if, on the other hand, she decided to move the desk in her office to another spot in the room, she would do it without consulting the staff. The next fact mentioned was that the staff association can make studies for the common benefit of the administration and the staff. For example, the Indianapolis staff made a retirement plan study for what is now law throughout their state. Miss McFadden touched briefly on the fact that the staff association should let the administration know of any unhappy conditions among the staff in order that the Librarian may look into things she might have missed. She pointed out that the Trustees must be considered. The staff has not always been told of plans of the administration, she continued, because of confusion. Rules and regulations and salaries are the problems of both groups. Working these things out together causes good relations. In-service training, in her opinion, is excellent. She warned against bringing unsupported rumors to the Librarian and stressed having a detailed statement prepared before going to the Librarian with a problem. Miss McFadden concluded by saying that from the point of view of the Librarian a staff organization is invaluable.

Miss Heiderstadt is active in staff affairs at Kansas City Library and in SORT. She opened her remarks by stating the staff had helped get a larger percentage of the state tax assigned to the Library. In Kansas City Library the staff paper is uncensored, the editor being responsible for everything that appears in it. Staff association membership dues are $1.25 annually, part of which goes toward sending members to the ALA Conferences. Miss Heiderstadt stated that suggestions may be either formal or informal and she believes that the staff enjoys about all the privileges of the modern library organization. The Library is under The Board of Education which has its say in major decisions.

Mrs Spellman's talk was brief, but interesting. She stated that up until the present Librarian was appointed the staff association was dominated almost completely by the administration. When an administration-staff meeting was held there was a set pattern to guide everyone attending it, and no one spoke to the administration unless spoken to. The idea of rising to ask a question, or the thought of free discussion on some point, just did not occur to the staff. There was no such privilege as a morning and afternoon recess for coffee. In fact the administration was quite dictatorial. With the present Librarian came a new day. By mutual agreement of all of the staff the old association was disbanded and a new one founded, and with such wonderful changes. Mrs Spellman continued that the staff could not accustom themselves for quite some time to realize that they could ask questions or make suggestions either at meetings or in the staff periodical. And to have time for coffee was just unbelievable. She said that there was fine spirit at her Library now and the staff association is flourishing. They raise money for their association even by having rummage sales. One fact brought out by Mrs Spellman concerned a Library other than

her own; the fact that at the Detroit Public Library, if an individual on the staff offers what seems to be a really worthwhile suggestion, the administration releases him from his regular duties so that he can carry out his plan.

Mrs Spellman's summation was succinctly put when she stated that even in a Library the sum of the parts equals the whole.

The meeting was then opened for anyone to tell of individual experiences, problems, or suggestions. The question of dues was discussed considerably. Some associations scale the dues according to the pay status of its members. Others charge a flat two or three dollars and make no profit on parties held during the year. Others make money on the sale of coffee, sandwiches, and tonics.

There were a few other topics offered for suggestions which were of more individual than universal concern. (One individual stated that she knew of an association whose funds were still in the checking account of the Librarian).

By common agreement all said auld lang syne -- till we meet in Chicago.

Thomas J. Manning

Audio-Visual Workshop

The Audio-Visual Pre-Conference Workshop on July 15 and 16 was opened by Dr Raynard Swank of Stanford University Libraries. Arthur Stenius of Wayne University led a stimulating discussion on the filmstrip and its use in Library film collections. Robert Schacht of the University of Wisconsin presided at a film evaluation meeting based on three films: Marriage Today, Human Beginnings, and Make Mine Freedom. Mrs Grace Stevenson of Seattle, Miss Karline Brown of Cincinnati, Norman Moore of Rochester, and Mrs Muriel Javelin served on the panel. The audience participation was spirited. At a banquet meeting on Saturday evening, Arthur Mayer, Formerly Chief of Motion Picture Branch of the War Department in Germany, and Importer of such films as Bicycle Thief and Shoe Shine, gave a fascinating talk on Films As an International Language. Mr Mayer told of his recent experiences in Germany.

On Sunday morning Kurtz Myers of Detroit and Miss Karline Brown were in charge of a very practical discussion on Recordings in Public Libraries. Many helpful suggestions on the handling of a record collection and the purchase of equipment made this session one of the most valuable of the weekend meetings. The Cleveland Public Library with a roundtable of Cleveland citizens presented an Invitation to Ideas program, based on the film Picture in Your Mind on Sunday afternoon. This technique -- a combination of a Great Books discussion and a film forum -- is being used in a series of meetings in Cleveland. The script of the film was read, the sound track was heard without the film, and then the film and sound track were presented. Although interesting to see, nearly every one in the audience was of the opinion that such a use of films was not wholly satisfactory, since a film should be judged only in its entirety. At the afternoon meeting a draft of a proposed statement with regard to the use of sponsored films in the Library program was discussed.

The Workshop closed Sunday evening with a panel discussion on The Regional Film Librarian Speaks -- a program in which all the Librarians in the Ohio Film Circuit participated, with L. Quincy Mumford of the Cleveland Public Library as Moderator.

For two days between meetings, after meetings, and far into the night Film Librarians looked at films and talked about nothing but films and film procedures.

Muriel C. Javelin

Adult Education Section

That the interest in adult education is increasing was evidenced by the large attendance at all meetings of the Adult Education Section. Over a hundred individuals were unable to be accommodated at the luncheon on Tuesday noon. We wondered if this was due to the inexpensive luncheon ($1.29) -- incidentally it was delicious -- or to the interest in adult education. However, the other adult education meetings were equally well attended. At the luncheon meeting Mrs Florence Craig, director of adult education, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cleveland, gave a stimulating talk on Should Librarians Read Books. Mrs Craig had discovered from a survey which she had recently completed that, unfortunately, many librarians do

not read. During the afternoon meeting which followed, the "buzz session" technique was used to draw the audience into a lively discussion on the subject If Not the People's University, Then What? The "buzz session" was preceded by a panel discussion led by Mrs Grace Stevenson, head, Adult Education and Film Department, Seattle Public Library.

On Thursday afternoon the Adult Education Section featured a Symposium: Our Best Community Project with Miss Sigrid Edge of Simmons College presiding. Symposium members were Miss Violet Myer of Enoch Pratt, Mrs Carrie Palmer of Royal Oak, Michigan, Miss Ruth Warncke of Kent County, Grand Rapids and Mrs Muriel Javelin who spoke on the Boston Public Library Never Too Late Group. Following the question period members of the audience told briefly of special projects which had been successfully presented in their communities.

Muriel C. Javelin

Intercultural Action Through the Library

On Monday morning, Miss Edna Phillips of the Morrill Memorial Library, Norwood, Massachusetts, acted as Chairman on a panel discussion of Intercultural Action Through the Library. Miss Margery Quigley of Montclair, New Jersey, spoke on Library Service to Displaced Persons; Miss Minnie Monti of Cleveland and Miss Kolish of Pittsburgh discussed the Selection and Purchase of Books in Diverse Languages. Perhaps the most valuable contribution made by Miss Monti was the advice to buy foreign books directly from the country concerned, rather than from dealers in this country. A list of foreign dealers was distributed at the meeting. Miss Dorothy Homer of the 135th Street Branch of the New York Public Library gave a splendid talk on Reading Service as a Force in Inter-Group Understanding in which she stressed the point that prejudice is not inborn. Miss Phillips read a paper which had been sent her by Mrs Peck of New Mexico on the Culture of the American Indian. A lively question period followed the panel discussion and a special invitation was given to the audience to visit the Foreign Language Department of the Cleveland Public Library where lists of books in various foreign languages were available for distribution.

Muriel C. Javelin

Pageant of Folk Dances

At the Fourth and last General Session of the Conference, Cleveland Cultural Groups presented a colorful and stirring Pageant of Folk Dances by Polish, Czech, Hungarian, Roumanian, Croatian, Irish, Negro, and Lithuanian groups. Those who were privileged to see these dancers will not soon forget the evening which brought to a close the open meetings of the 1950 Conference in Cleveland.

Muriel C. Javelin

Hospitality
First General Session
Art Reference Round Table
Friends of the Library

When the sprawling metropolis of Cleveland flung open the wide hospitable doors of her ten-million-dollar Auditorium in welcome to the members of the ALA, the more than 4,000 visiting librarians in attendance were impressed by the various manifestations of this public-spirited community which emphasizes the good things of life. The garden clubs of Cleveland provided the beautiful bouquets of flowers which were so artistically and lavishly displayed at the several meetings throughout the week. The open houses and receptions scheduled were both elegant and sumptuous.

In conjunction with the convention, an exhibit of 160 displays of library aids ranging from books to bookmobiles was located in the underground exhibition hall of Public Hall. In this lively atmosphere where publishers, book binders, and audio-visual experts merchandised their wares attractively, there was a great deal to see and learn about the extraordinary techniques developed by the book trade to aid libraries to render excellent service. There came to mind as one lingered at the booths of Asia Calling, Folkways Records & Service Corp., Army Special Services, and Department of State Information Libraries, a significant statement by Brooks Emeny, "The frontiers of successful American

foreign policy can extend only so far as there exists mutual understanding between ourselves and the peoples to whom our policies are to apply. Embraced in the world policy should be not only considerations of economic welfare and security, but also the minds of men who understand mutual problems." Nations must cease being ethnocentric for science and technology have combined to shrink the world. Musing in this vein was not possible for any length of time because this particular area of the exhibits was filled with the gay and exotic recordings of the Ethnic Folkways Library, the favorite being a captivating dance from Panama El Tamborito. The tune was such a contrast to the No. 1 favorite of the juke boxes in many of the local restaurants -- "Goodnight Irene" with Gordon Jenkins and his Weavers, not to mention the rehearsal of the Cleveland Summer Orchestra conducted by Dr Rudolph Ringwall which featured Vivian Della Chiesa as soloist as she sang Massenet's "Pleurez mes yeux", and who gave it particular slancio when she noted the few listeners in the music hall. The cultural diversity offered to visitors of the conference was stimulating to say the least.

At the meeting of the First General Session Mr Milton E. Lord, in his address as retiring president of ALA, urged greater support for libraries through State Aid. Mr Lord then introduced the principal speaker of the evening, Brooks Emeny, president of the Foreign Policy Association. His topic, "A Marshall Plan of Ideas" stressed the following facts:

OUR FUTURE, whether we like it or not, is inextricably bound up with the future of Europe, the Middle and Far East.

SOVIET EXPANSION, while it has been stopped for the time in western Europe, is driving with pressure in the Orient.

PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND FAR EAST are not willing to make themselves the instruments or the victims of United States anti-Soviet policy.

NONETHELESS, the United States has the power, if it can summon the wisdom, to help make an Asia which we are not strong enough ourselves to control into an Asia which will refuse to be controlled by the Soviets.

EUROPE, even with Marshall plan aid, will be unable to maintain its recovery without solution of the economic problem of the Far and Middle East.

Miss Katherine Kosmak, who directed the former United States Information Service Library until it was closed by order of the Czech government last April, addressed the Art Reference Round Table at a buffet luncheon which was held at the Cleveland Museum of Art on July 18, 1950. Miss Kosmak told how American art is served by making information about it available in foreign countries. These libraries exist to give a full, fair, and accurate picture of life in the United States and of that, art is a section. Art is included without making a particular feature of it, for these libraries grew out of libraries of technical information and technical information comes first. However, the importance of the nationalized glass industry in Prague made it essential to stress many phases of commercial art such as suggestions for brochures as well as packaging and display. There was great demand for patterns which could be etched on glass for the American export trade. This was natural in a country which was trying to build up its industrial art. Whereas European libraries are scholarly and custodial rather than educational, these libraries maintained abroad by the State Department offer inestimable opportunity for the flow of international friendship and cultural exchange. Miss Kosmak's experience, however, was challenging in this country with its highly-charged political situation and the library had to fight misconceptions and lies. Evidence of the latter was the prominence given to posters all over the city such as the scurrilous cartoon showing President Truman as a monster with claws swooping over the people, which was so beautifully executed by the American Artist, William Gropper. The concerts of recorded American music held at the library on Monday evenings were very popular with the Czech people who showed special preference for negro spirituals which have such great appeal for an oppressed people.

At the Friends of Libraries Luncheon, Louis B. Seltzer, dynamic editor of the Cleveland Press and great benefactor of the Cleveland Public Library, urged librarians to secure for their institutions friends who understand the function of the library and can help it to carry on its cultural activities by offering its services and information in an attractive manner to its community. Mr Seltzer deplored

the attitude of the average American, who, in his ceaseless craving for entertainment by means of television, movies, sports, and canasta, begrudges our country time to discharge his obligations as a well-informed citizen.

Vera J. Lavorgna

The History and Purposes of SORT

The History and Purposes of SORT was the subject chosen by Miss Mildred T. Stibitz, Dayton Public Library, Dayton, Ohio, for her talk following the business meeting on July 19.

In her preliminary remarks she brought out the fact that, according to a bibliography prepared in 1936, the matter of staff organizations was being discussed in periodicals in the early 1920's. Although there were social and literary groups of staff members at that time, most of those discussed in the articles were union groups.

In the 1930's a rash of staff organizations broke out. With the New Deal had come acceptance of the desirability of labor organization and there was a tremendous growth in the membership of labor unions. The idea spread to white collar and professional workers. Librarians were not unaffected by the spirit of the times but tended to organize themselves into staff associations rather than unions, although some few groups were affiliated with organized labor.

A survey of the staff associations existing in 1936 showed a great variety in the types, interests, ways of working, and membership of these organizations. Some excluded the janitorial staff, some excluded members of the administration, some included everyone. Some were almost entirely social or welfare organizations, concerned with such matters as sending flowers to sick members. Some were concerned with studying personnel questions, economic problems, development of credit unions, working for increased budgets, or similar matters.

History Of The SORT

In the period in which many new associations were being established, the ALA Bulletin published a letter by Helen Zeigler, of the Montclair Public Library, asking staff associations to send representatives to a meeting held during the Richmond conference in 1936. Both union and non-union representatives attended a dinner and discussed "What are the Purposes, Aims and Proper Fields of Activity of Staff Associations?" As a result of discussion, a committee was appointed to study the question of some sort of organization of staff organizations and to report at the 1937 conference. This committee made the survey already referred to, advised new associations on activities, and encouraged the formation of new staff organizations. The members held conferences with Miss Timmerman, the person at ALA Headquarters concerned with personnel matters, and with Mr Paul North Rice, then chairman of the Board on Salary, Staffs and Tenure (later the Board on Personnel Administration). They corresponded and, in the case of a few members, met together and formed plans for the creation of a round table within the structure of the ALA.

At the 1937 conference, held in New York City, representatives from various associations voted to form a round table. Dues were set at 5¢ per capita (with minimum and maximum figures for small and large associations) and a council was set up with representation from all member organizations and a Steering Committee of five members. There does not seem to be any record of actual formation of the council and work was carried on by the Steering Committee. Meetings have been held at all subsequent ALA conferences.

A constitution was submitted at the 1940 conference in Cincinnati by Ruth Shapiro, chairman of the Constitution Committee. It was adopted in 1941 at the Boston convention. This document provided for a Steering Committee of seven members, elected for two years with staggered terms, established dues at 5¢ per capita, and set up the form of the round table in general. It stated the purposes and aims of the round table and provided that there should always be representatives of both union and non-union organizations on the Steering Committee. This constitution was later amended in minor ways but its main principles are still in force.

No national conventions were held from 1942 to 1946, the war years. At the request of ALA, all officers were frozen in office. Since there was no provision for replacing any officers who resigned (this was later corrected by an amendment to the

constitution), the number on the Steering Committee dwindled. An effort was made to publish a bulletin that would serve as a substitute for meetings, with more articles and more news. However, when the editor was unable to continue the extra work no one was found to replace her, and the bulletin was discontinued in 1945. Dues continued to come in but, since money could not be spent for the benefit of the membership, dues were halved one year and waived another. In 1946 a completely new committee, with one exception, was elected at the Buffalo convention. In spite of everything, 60 associations had remained members, and although 14 had dropped out for various reasons, 22 new members had joined. The years since the war have seen revived and increased activity. The successful meetings at the 1949 regional conferences showed that interest in staff organizations was widespread.

Purposes and Their Achievement

The constitution states that the objects of the SORT are as follows: (1) To encourage the formation of staff organizations; (2) To act as a clearing house for information about staff organizations; (3) to bring staff organizations into closer relationship and to foster mutual cooperation; and (4) To cooperate with ALA boards and committees and other organizations set up to study and act upon personnel problems. These objects are to be reached by means of correspondence, publication of a bulletin, publication of articles in professional journals, discussion and action at annual meetings, studies and surveys.

In varying degrees these purposes have been achieved. From the beginning the Steering Committee has served as a source of information on many subjects. There have been questions on how to organize, how to handle flower funds, how to put out staff publications; on faculty status for librarians; on leaves, pension plans, salaries, sick leaves, recruiting methods. Valuable surveys have been made on in-service training, Sunday work, vacation practices, sick leave, the five-day week, payment of expenses for staff members attending meetings -- many as a result of requests for information. Requests for information on how to organize and on constitutions led to the publication of "Why a Staff Organization, with Suggestions for a Constitution". The SORT organized the clinic on personnel problems at the Milwaukee conference in 1942.

The Staff Organization Round Table has cooperated with other groups interested in similar problems. In 1940, its representatives served as co-ordinators in the Employee Relations Clinic sponsored by the Board on Salaries, Staff, and Tenure. In 1944, the chairman was a member of a committee on relations with local groups and the SORT bulletin was used to ask members to send ideas to this committee. SORT has had a representative on the Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career. The Board on Personnel Administration has appealed through the bulletin for forms that can be used in making up a new edition of the manual on personnel practices. In 1948, the SORT Chairman urged the use of the salary standards set by the Personnel Board in making requests for salary increases, both to add the prestige of ALA backing and to publicize the national minimum standards. The SORT and member organizations raised $200 as a contribution to ALA's share of the expense of the study of library salaries and working conditions made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Interests as Shown by Articles in Bulletin and Talks at Meetings

It has been interesting to notice the subjects that, through the years, have been discussed in the bulletin and at meetings. It might have been expected that there would be a changing pattern but, actually, the round table appears to be interested now in the same topics as in earlier years, with one or two exceptions.

1. Questions of organization: should there be staff organizations, what kind should they be (union or non-union), what are their functions in libraries, what is their relation to the administration?

2. The Staff Organizations Round Table: how can it be made more effective; what are its purposes?

3. Personnel Matters: fostering cooperation between staff and administration, increased salaries, pensions, job analyses, relation of staff to trustees, merit systems, in-service training.

4. Practical help in staff organization work: how to edit a bulletin, program material, methods of raising money.

5. Professional or literary matters. These appeared only occasionally.

In addition, the bulletin contained frequent news of associations and what they were doing, and lists of articles of interest to staff organizations. During the war, the preoccupation with war activities -- blood banks, Victory Book campaigns, etc. was very evident.

Although the same topics were discussed from year to year, there were exceptions. In the early years there were frequent and sometimes heated discussions about unions but the decisions were early made that the SORT should include both types of organization. Either unions are more generally accepted now or the establishment of the Library Unions Round Table has taken care of the difficulties.

Another exception seems to be the more general acceptance now of the concept of some employee participation in administration through staff organizations. Although this is not true of all libraries, discussion has moved from whether such participation is possible to the ways in which it might be carried on.

Conclusions

There are conclusions in the sense that they represent thoughts that come from going over the material on the Staff Organizations Round Table, not in the sense that they are orderly results of the evidence presented.

There have been many accomplishments. There may be dissatisfaction with the fact that the meetings still give consideration to about the same topics as fifteen years ago. In the first place, new organizations are constantly being formed and joining the SORT. These need information that has already been discussed. Furthermore, the basic components of personnel problems remain the same -- salaries, working conditions, in-service training -- but new things can constantly be said about them. Talking about the same subjects does not mean that the same things are being said.

What lies ahead? To some extent at least, the SORT is fulfilling the purposes stated in its constitution. First, consideration must be given to the nature of SORT as an organization of organizations. The representatives of each group not only participate in the round table's activities but they also have an obligation to interpret the purposes of the larger organization to their own home associations. It is important that there be experienced officers to conduct activities, but it is also important that new people and representatives of new associations be elected to the Steering Committee, so that as many associations as possible should have some familiarity with SORT.

One goal, therefore, might be to find ways in which the membership of the member organizations could be made familiar with the workings of the SORT -- through reports and publications from those attending the annual meetings. There should also be increased participation by all member organizations.

Vigilance is still needed in regard to encouraging the organization of staff associations. Although the idea is certainly accepted generally, it is by no means universal. Personnel techniques in libraries have improved in many respects but this does not mean that staff organizations are not necessary.

Finally, have we let our interest in such matters as tenure lapse too soon? Perhaps for a few years it was not necessary to watch so closely, but when member of library staff can lose a job because of refusal to sign an oath that goes against religious principles, it would seem necessary for an organization of staff members to be on the alert. The matter of financial support for those who lose positions in such circumstances might be considered. In these times, this whole area is a legitimate field for staff association action.

Evelyn Green

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WE QUOTE

"To witness the spectacle of Milton Lord, proper Bostonian attired in blue jeans and red plaid shirt, calling square dances in a cultured H-a-avard accent, was indeed novel."

"Echoes from Cleveland" --
AD LIB, Indianapolis Public Library

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IT HAPPENED ON THE WAY

As three BPLers -- Mrs Evelyn B. Marden, Mrs Evelyn Green, and Miss Vera Lavorgna -- were nearing the end of their drive to Cleveland, en route to the ALA Conference, they passed a small country church where a carnival was being held. Thinking how nice it would be to return to Boston in the new Buick on display, they stopped and bought several tickets.

Arriving at their destination, Conference matters claimed their attention and anyways, they "knew they'd never win anything." Imagine their surprise the next morning to receive a telephone call from the priest at the small church. No, they hadn't won the car; but Mrs Marden had held a lucky number and had won a television set!

A car for Mr Murphy in June; a television set for Mrs Marden in July; do these things happen in threes?

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MID-CENTURY NATIONAL AUDIO-VISUAL CONVENTION

The Mid-Century National Audio-Visual Convention including the Educational Film Library Association (EFLA), the Film Council of America (FCA), the Midwest Forum on Audio-Visual Aids, and the National Audio-Visual Association (NAVA) was almost a continuation of the ALA Pre-Conference, for some twenty-five ALA members were in Chicago from July 28 through August 1. Friday and Saturday afternoons were given over to five separate group meetings for study and discussion of problems and techniques in the production, distribution, administration, and utilization of audio-visual materials. Mrs Patricia Blair, Library Film Advisor of ALA and Mrs Grace Stevenson of Seattle served as Co-Chairmen of the meetings on A-V Programs in Public Libraries. Robert Schacht of the University of Wisconsin and his group who were to discuss A-V Techniques for Special Informal Education Groups joined the Librarians so the meetings were particularly well attended. At the Friday afternoon meeting the discussion centered around the two questions: How can the public library promote community use of films? and How can the public library provide or develop capable discussion leadership? On Saturday afternoon the planned program was changed and the time was devoted to a discussion of film censorship in public libraries. John M. Cory, Executive Secretary of the ALA, presented the case of the Peoria, Illinois, Public Library of which Miss Bertha Landers is Film Librarian. The American Legion recently requested the withdrawal of three films from the Library collection: Peoples of USSR, Boundary Lines, and Brotherhood of Man, claiming that these films were Communistic. Since an editorial in a Peoria daily paper also attacked Julien Bryan and the Basic Film List of the Audio-Visual Board of the ALA, Mr Cory reported that the ALA Committee on Intellectual Freedom would investigate the case, as would the Film Council of America. This is the first serious case of attempted film censorship in a public library.

At a joint session of EFLA and FCA on Saturday morning, Dr Edgar Dale of Ohio State University gave an inspirational talk on The Next Fifty Years (in educational films) or Moving Forward by Looking Backward. Dr Dale discussed:

- Co-operation versus competition
- Sharing versus charity
- Entertainment versus education
- Participation versus spectatorship
- Revolution versus reaction

in the United States and in the world during the next fifty years and predicted that:

- Audio-Visual materials will come of age
- Students will have an increasing responsibility in using audio-visual materials
- More audio-visual centers will be established, particularly in libraries
- Films will be used for a greater variety of purposes
- Much more critical thinking will be necessary in the use and selection of films
- More courses will be given in the audio-visual field
- The film audience will be much larger
- The understanding of mass media will become more important in liberal education
- Producers of educational films should receive more profit
- Television will be used a lot more in education
- Machines must be improved and the

persons who use the machines must be improved.

On Saturday evening, Floyd Brooker, Chief of the Film Division, Office of Education, Washington, D.C. was chairman of a panel appraisal of the development of educational films -- Films, Then and Now and in the Future. Examples of the oldest and the newest educational pictures were shown.

At a Film Council Clinic on Sunday morning many practical suggestions were offered regarding the organization and programs of local film councils. The subject of the Sunday afternoon meeting was: Fifty Years of Progress in the Audio-Visual Field: A Visualized Review. Brief talks by outstanding people in the field were given on training, production, distribution, formal educational use of films, industrial use of films, and informal use of film material. These talks were all illustrated and demonstrated the oldest as well as the newest audio-visual equipment. At the banquet on Sunday evening Robert J. Blakely, Chief Editorial Writer of the St. Louis Star-Times gave the principal address in which he stressed the importance of films in the critical times ahead.

As in Cleveland there were frequent film showings and informal film discussions lasting far into the night. Mrs Muriel Javelin represented the Film Council of Greater Boston and completed her term as a member of the Film Council Senate of which Mr Cory of ALA was the Chairman.

Muriel C. Javelin

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CAPERS AT AGLIO ACRES

On the evening of August tenth approximately one hundred Library employees and their friends gathered at the home of Tom Aglio in Hyde Park amid multi-colored lights and streamers to help celebrate at a surprise party held in honor of five Library employees who will enter the seminary this fall.

They are: Francis Connell, Open Shelf Department, to enter the Paulist Preparatory Seminary, Catonsville, Baltimore, Maryland; John Clougher, Book Stack Service, and Frederick Murphy, formerly of the General Reference Department, to enter Saint Clement's Hall, Brighton; Richard Desharnais, Statistical Department, to enter Stonehill College, North Easton, Massachusetts (Holy Cross Fathers); and Donald Ross, formerly of the Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, to enter the Trappist Monastery in Rhode Island. Unfortunately Donals was not able to attend the party.

The affair got underway at eight-thirty and lasted until one o'clock. At nine o'clock the families of the seminarians-to-be arrived, and their arrival proved to be more of a surprise than the party itself.

There was dancing until ten-thirty. Then each of the fellows entering the religious orders was presented with a gift. In the card attached to each gift there was a long white ribbon on which were inscribed the names of all those who wished them good luck in their coming work.

After the gifts were opened and displayed, congratulations were once again extended to those concerned. Refreshments were served as the young crowd gathered in small groups around the bridge tables set up on the dance area.

The large three-car garage was lavishly decorated with colored paper and lights, Japanese lanterns, and balloons. On the back wall of the garage was a large poster depicting the five seminarians in their clerical garb with suitcase in hand as they leave the familiar sights of the Library and Copley Square. (see back cover).

The weather was pleasantly warm for such an outdoor occasion and everyone enjoyed an exciting evening.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Personnel Office and all the members of the Library Staff who helped me to make this party the huge success that it turned out to be.

Thomas J. Aglio
Periodical and Newspaper Departments

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BRANCH NOTES

Allston

The staff has been able to follow Ethel Kimball on her travels throughout Europe from the many interesting post cards she has sent. Among the highlights of her trip to date were visits to Oxford, England, where she saw the Bodlein Library

and other college buildings, and more recently, to Brussels and Venice.

Another visitor to Europe, but one who will see Israel first, is Miss Sarah Richman. As she sailed less than a week ago, we have not yet received news of her. In the next eight weeks we expect to hear much of interest from her.

Codman Square

The Codman Square Branch was represented by Miss Ross and Miss Winnick at the sixth MIT summer lecture, entitled "WHAT MAKES A BOOK GOOD?"

One of the students opened the meeting and introduced the Moderator, Prof. Howard R. Bartlett, Head of the English and History Department at MIT who said that Prof. Ludwig Lewisohn was in the hospital for an emergency operation and so was not able to be there as announced, but that Prof. John Ciardi of Harvard had very kindly consented to take his place at extremely short notice.

The first speaker was Associate Prof. Paul M. Chalmers of MIT who presented his ideas of "WHAT MAKES A BOOK GOOD?" in a unique way, pretending that he had fallen asleep and heard the radio advertising a good book, "Passion on the Pampas", which had "punch and deep-down, locked-in goodness." His presentation held the audience from the first. For him, no book was good if it bored him. Provided he brought to it a decent amount of intelligence, attention, and willingness, the reader had a right to expect a book to hold him. The author should be sincere, know his subject, and present it well.

The second speaker, Prof. William C. Green of MIT, spoke in his usual off-hand manner. Many in the audience were evidently his students who were used to him. He said that in a good book, virtue should triumph over vice. He also thought that individual taste (relativism) must bow to literary standards (absolutism): those who did not like Homer did not pass his course.

The last speaker, Prof. John Ciardi spoke like the creative writer he is. He said that the first criterion for a good book was that the people and the situations should be evoked rather than described, so that the reader is transported outside himself completely, the experiences and emotions in the book become his own, and the characters as real to him as the people he knows. He thought that any subject was valid in a good book if it were significantly observed and significantly recreated.

The lively question period brought out some further points which Prof. Ciardi made: He did not see how a person could read "Forever Amber" if he knew "Hamlet", nor did he consider the popularity of a book any yardstick of its worthiness. Indeed, a good book, said the poet, must have met the tests of some fifty years, surviving literary fashions and tastes, to have proved itself an enduring one.

When asked whether the dignity of man must always be upheld, he replied that the illusion of man's dignity and sympathy with him are legitimate demands of a good book.

The evening was a stimulating and provocative one, highlighted by Prof. Ciardi's brilliant mind and talent with words.

West End

Eleven members (plus husbands) of the staff attended the lecture forum on "What makes a good book?" on Wednesday evening, August 9, at MIT. The group had dinner at the Hotel Commander prior to the lecture.

The panel was made up of William C. Greene, Professor of English, MIT, John Ciardi, Professor of English, Harvard, Paul M. Chalmers, Associate Professor of English, MIT, and the Moderator was Professor Howard R. Bartlett, Head of the Department of English and History at MIT.

The group had a pleasant evening, but the consensus of opinion was that these erudite gentlemen failed to reach a conclusion on what actually makes a gook book or to establish a code of rules which might guide Mr and Mrs Average Reader in the selection of a good book.

*

On Tuesday morning July 25, approximately 100 children attended a showing of PETER AND THE WIFFLEHOUND, a movie on safety produced by the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company of Boston. Groups of children representing the Elizabeth Peabody House, the Temple Street Methodist Church Vacation School, the Myrtle Street, Pitts, Faneuil and Phillips Street Playgrounds, the Salvation Army Day Camp, and the Heath Christian Center Day Camp attended with

their leaders. Miss Clio Colivas, representative of the company, spoke to the children on the subject of safety, and also showed the film. Souvenir booklets, entitled PETER AND THE WIFFLEHOUND were distributed. After the showing of the film, the groups were guided on a tour of the Library building, and a talk on its history was given by the Children's Librarian, Miss Elinor Day. An opportunity was given the children to use their Library cards and to select books for home use. The program was a great success; so much so, that plans are being made to present a similar program on safety for the junior high school children in September and at the same time to emphasize the children's role in safe driving and fire prevention.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Green, Henry
Nothing
New York, Viking, 1950

Kennedy, Margaret
The feast
New York, Rinehart, 1950

Van Every, Dale
Bridal journey
New York, Messner, 1950

Weston, Christine
The world is a bridge
New York, Scribner, 1950

Wilson, Angus
The wrong set
New York, Morrow, 1950

Non-fiction

Commager, Henry S.
The American mind
New Haven, Yale Univ. Press, 1950

Daley, Arthur
Times at bat, a half a century of baseball
New York, Random House, 1950

Eliot, Thomas S.
The cocktail party
New York, Harcourt, 1950

Leigh, Robert D.
The public library in the United States, a report of the Public Library Inquiry
New York, Columbia Univ. Press, 1950

Lyle, Guy R.
Classified list of periodicals for the college library. 3rd ed.
Boston, Faxon, 1948

Reece, Ernest J.
The task and training of librarians
New York, King's Crown Press, 1949

Trilling, Lionel
The liberal imagination
New York, Viking, 1950

Velikovsky, Immanuel
Worlds in collision
New York, Macmillan, 1950

Winwar, Frances
The immortal lovers
New York, Harper, 1950

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SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

Servus Indignatus, who seems at the moment to be more Indignatus than Servus, is obviously much upset by the delay in the announcement of promotions. Without entering into the discussion of that subject, it nevertheless strikes this reader that Servus Indignatus makes certain implications which should disturb anyone interested in the service as well as in the staff. He/she seems to suggest that 75 members of the staff are likely to be so affected by their private anxieties that it will adversely affect their approach to the public. As Servus Indignatus has said, "75 individuals is a sizable segment of the staff", so that the lessening of the efficiency and courtesy of so large a group is rather serious. It occurs to

this reader that individuals so lacking in self-control that they allow their personal worries to affect their work so noticeably would presumably receive on their rating sheets rather low marks in "poise", "courtesy", "dependability", and "attitude toward people". If, as he/she further suggests, a good deal of their time will go into whispered speculations as to their fate, it is conceivable that their work accomplishment will suffer. At this point one arrives at an obvious conclusion. Should these individuals, whose work and attitudes are so adversely affected by such circumstances, be the considered choice for promotion? This reader does not think so. This reader also thinks that Servus Indignatus is simply over-commotus and that actually neither he/she nor the other 74 members of the staff are whispering in corners or glowering at the innocent public.

*

To the Editor of Soap Box:

Two fancy names and two long articles in contrasting styles appeared in the SOAP BOX last month. They have aroused many comments. When the heat of discussion is over one fact seems to stand out clearly, which either of the two writers could have put into one sentence, i.e.: No matter how you look at it, delays in filling vacancies as they arise when there are qualified persons on the waiting lists lowers staff morale.

Plain Logic

*

To the Soap Box:

At any ALA conference it is always interesting and often enlightening to talk with Librarians from all parts of the United States. Here are a few observations gathered at random in Cleveland:

1. Boston salaries rank exceptionally well with those paid in other parts of the country.

2. Many libraries pay conference expenses of the head librarian or of persons in key positions. Apparently few libraries offer conference grants to general staff members.

3. Not many libraries promote entirely from their ranks. Some libraries do so unless there is no qualified person on the staff, and frequently there doesn't seem to be.

Enough Said

AN UNUSUAL SERVICE OFFERED TO SHUT-INS

One of the most kindly recollections of the Cleveland Public Library is its splendid service to shut-ins.

The establishment of the Frederick W. and Henryett Slocum Judd fund has made possible a greatly enlarged and developed library service to the old, the crippled, and the ill in institutions and, to some extent, in their own homes. With money from this fund a special staff has been appointed; many new books have been purchased; and book talks and other programs have been provided. Surely Cleveland Shut-Ins are fortunate.

Evelyn Green

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THANKS!

I have been much impressed with the Question Mark during the past two years, and just to let you know that its contents do have an effect -- on the strength of Mrs Bailey's letter my husband and I visited "Fruitlands" last Saturday and found Mrs Bailey's enthusiasm completely justified.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Lovett
Kirstein Business Branch

August 7, 1950

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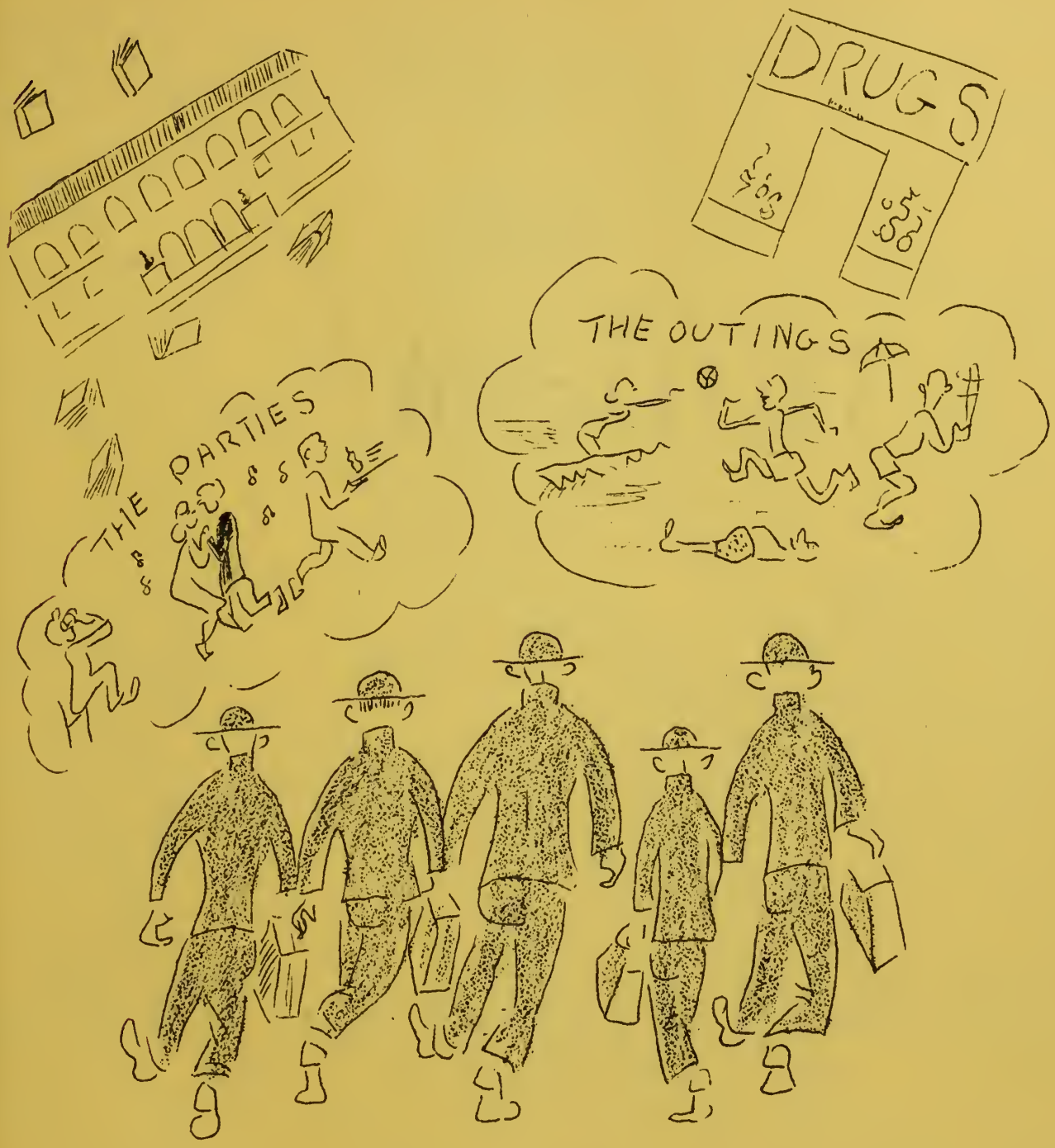

GOOD-BY

DON JOHN FRANK FRED DICK

Bill Maloney
Hz I

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume V, Number 9 September 1950

Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, M. Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

What seems to us to be a significant event which has taken place during this vacation period -- the trip taken by the Trustees, with the Director, to visit a group of libraries -- makes it self-evident that for the Trustees there are no vacations. Regardless of time of year, this board of five unpaid "servants of the people" is always on the job.

Their action indicates that they recognize their responsibility in connection with building funds to be threefold: To the memory of Josiah Benton and John Deferrari who gave the money; to the present generation in whose lifetime the enlarged building will become a reality; and to future generations in order that they may have no reason to say that the additions are beautiful architecturally, but present many administrative problems.

Consequently, before approving final plans, three of the Trustees and the Director spent a week in August visiting a selected group of libraries in the east and middlewest to obtain first-hand information which will help them to take advantage of building experiences at these large libraries.

This is cited here as a concrete example of the good business sense which the Trustees exercise in facing problems which come to them in the discharge of their duties. It also affords an opportunity to call attention to the ever-increasing interest on the part of the Trustees in internal library problems and in staff activities.

The obvious conclusion is that we are fortunate as a staff in having men of such calibre chosen to serve as Trustees of one of the largest public libraries in the country.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Miss Elizabeth C. Hershey, Personnel Office.

Mr Joseph C. Sakey, Cataloging and Classification Department for Reference and Research Services.

Transfers

Miss Patience-Anne C. Williams, from East Boston Branch Library to Mattapan Branch Library.

Miss Dorothy K. Becker, from North End Branch Library to Connolly Branch Library.

Miss Rosalie A. Lang, from General Reference Department to History Department.

Engagements

Miss Lorraine C. Faille, Mattapan Branch Library, to Mr John Evans of Boston and Florida.

Miss Lois Shoemaker, History Department, to Mr Lawrence Markus of Wilmette, Ill. Both will study in Paris where the wedding will take place. Mr Markus has a Fulbright scholarship. Miss Shoemaker is leaving the Library on October first.

Marriages

Miss Patricia Morley, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, to Donald A. Gillis on August 26, 1950.

Resignations

Mr Paul Kennedy, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, to teach at the Rochambeau School, Dorchester.

Miss Leonie Sheehan, Book Purchasing Department, to teach at the Solomon Leuenberg School, Mattapan.

Mr Matthew P. Gallagher, History Department, to teach history at Wheaton College.

Military Service

Mr B. Joseph O'Neil, Periodical and Newspaper Department, is on active duty with the United States Navy.

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VOLUNTEER STUDENT LIBRARIAN

Miss Berit Lambertsen of Bergen, Norway, has joined the staff of the Library as a full-time volunteer assistant for the period dating from September 1950 through June 1951. Miss Lambertsen has been for the past two years a student in the Bergens Off. Bibliotek. She arrived in this country in August and on September 5, 1950 she reported to the Library. She will work and observe throughout the library system.

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Wedding

On Saturday morning, August 26, at nine o'clock, Miss M. Patricia Morley was married to Mr Donald A. Gillis at Saint Andrew The Apostle Church, Roslindale. The bride looked beautiful in a white lace ankle-length gown with matching lace cap and short veil. She carried a spray of white gladioli. Mrs Alice Morley Doucette, sister of the bride (formerly of the Business Office), was matron of honor. Her dress was of aqua lace and satin. She wore a coronet of deep pink gladioli and carried a matching spray. After a small outdoor reception for the immediate family, Mr and Mrs Gillis left for a two week wedding trip to Cape Cod.

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BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

to

Miss Jean Watson, Business Office.
Mrs Helen Hirson, Office of the Division of HomeReading and Community Services. Mrs Hirson was injured in a recent automobile accident.

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RECENT VISITORS

Dr Johannes Rasp, Director, Hessische Landesbibliothek, Darmstadt, Germany.
Dr Theodor Ostermann, Library of the University of Munich, Germany.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Enthusiastic letters are being received from Miami, Florida, from Miss Elizabeth Todd, formerly of the Teachers' Department. She is busy cataloging books in the Library of the University of Miami where she had been employed since July 5. On the social side Betty is having a good time, and her friends will be interested to hear that she has abandoned Bridge for Canasta. Her only complaint is the heat - but will we all envy her next February!

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MR APPEL JUDGES BEAUTY AND TALENT CONTEST

Why my qualifications as a judge in a beauty and talent contest excited so much surprise leaves me quite perplexed. If an explanation on my part is in order, here goes -

Shortly before leaving for my vacation I was asked if I would be willing to say a word of greeting at a reception for summer students which was to be given later in the month by the William Rhodes Opera Society of Boston. Although I hesitated to give up my last days of vacation, I acceded to the request of the president of the society, Dr William A. Rhodes, and cut my vacation short in order to be present.

Among others greeting the students was Mr James H. Jones, President of the Boston Alumni Association of Hampton Institute, who a few days after the reception appeared in the Music Department and asked if I would be willing to be a judge in the National Finals of the Beauty and Talent Contest on August 17, in connection with the convention of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North and South America. I looked upon this chain-reaction assignment as an excellent opportunity for self-education.

As a preliminary the judges were asked to dine with the twenty contestants at the Hotel Lenox on the evening preceeding the contest. With two beauties to the left and two to the right, I proceeded to wolf

the delicious dinner under the careful scrutiny of a chaperone seated directly opposite me. Each course was served at a different table so that I had a speaking acquaintance with each of the twenty contestants. I don't recall ever being seated more advantageously, with attractive young people trying to make a favorable impression on me as to their vivacity, conversational ability, and poise.

Such are the arts of make-up however that the next evening it was almost impossible to identify some of the individuals. Each contestant paraded up and down the ramp successively in three events and the judges had to grade them as first, second, third, fourth, and fifth. After the third event came the talent contests which consisted of piano playing, baton twirling, free, tap, and acrobatic dancing and singing. Some of the voices were remarkable.

Then came the personality contests in which each had to explain what she would do if she were awarded the prize. The grace and poise of the contestants amazed me for most of them were in high school or recently graduated. The earnestness of purpose was evident and each had such excellent objectives that grading was difficult here.

Between each event the score cards were collected and tallied by the tellers during which time there were various features by skilled choral groups, by a pianist, and by the presentation of awards.

When the final decision was announced the girl who won fifth place was called out first. She came out as pleased and proudly as though she had won first. Then in succession came the girls who had won fourth, third, second and finally first places.

All this took a long time, you may be sure, and I did not get home until 3:30 a.m. All the while Mr Jones was a model of thoughtfulness and courtesy. The whole affair was conducted with great efficiency and reflected great credit on the management.

Richard G. Appel
Chief, Music Department

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THE LUCKY THIRD

In The Question Mark for August we asked a direct question,"Do these things happen in threes?" To it we have had a direct answer, "Yes." On July 22, Mr James P. Gannon, Binding Department, was the winner of a Philco television set at a drawing conducted at Farmington, N.H., by the Catholic Church.

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FIRST NIGHT CLUB OF BOSTON

First Night Club of Boston, a unique, successful, and non-profit theatre society, which has been in active operation for the past nineteen years, invited the members of the B.P.L.P.S.A. to join its organization.

The purpose is to reduce substantially the cost of theatre tickets and to bring to the legitimate theatre select and discriminating audiences whose limited incomes might otherwise prevent them from enjoying the entertainment and educational advantages of the theatre, due to the prevailing prices.

First Night Club enables its members to participate in the theatre's wide variety of attractions - drama, comedies, operettas, musical revues, musical comedies, and ballets. These presentations are given at the Opera House and at the Copley, Majestic, Plymouth, Shubert, and Wilbur Theatres.

The enrollment fee yearly is one dollar for each member. It costs one dollar, plus Federal tax, for a ticket to each show designated as a first night attraction. Prior to the opening of one of these shows the member receives particulars about the show by post card. The membership card and post card may be presented at the ticket office and the holder may, for example, receive an orchestra seat for one dollar, plus Federal tax. As a general rule the tickets are available for either the opening night or the following one.

During the theatre season of 1950-51 it is anticipated that between fifteen and twenty shows will be offered to the First Night Club members. Failure of a member to attend approximately one half of the shows presented will result in the cancellation of membership.

The season started off with a bang-bang! The first attraction was "Pardon My FrencH" starring Olsen and Johnson. Those attending the smash hit at the Opera House can testify that there was plenty of zip, noise, laughter, and dancing for everyone. The second offering was "Black Chiffon", with Flora Robson and the original English

cast. Drama at its best was enjoyed at this performance. The next play is "Season in the Sun", with co-stars, Richard Whorf and Nancy Kelly.

Two Hundred and fourteen members have been enrolled in the First Night Club through the B.P.L.P.S.A. Enrollment closed on August fifteenth.

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THEY STILL NEED CARE

In the classroom of the newly established Ryukyu University, on Okinawa, a CARE representative recently found Professor Buntaro Taira, head of the English Department, eating his lunch - one bowl of rice.

Rice is the main diet for the professor, his wife and their five children. Occasionally, there is a little fish. More often, though still rarely, some greens grown in the small garden the Professor cultivates on a patch of land beside the family's four-room shack, which is built of packing boards and corrugated iron salvaged from war debris.

Professor Taira symbolizes the tragic postwar plight of thousands of professional people in war-ravaged lands - the librarian, teacher, lawyer, doctor whose skills, though so important to the world's future, do not rank as priority in the immediate needs of reconstruction.

Five years after World War II, attention still centers on the task of putting countries back together physically. Houses must be rebuilt; water lines must be relaid; trade and agriculture must be restored. The professional person's skills are not the ones that guide the factory machine or the plow. He finds that his services - and his needs - must wait.

Thus, Professor Taira earns the equivalent of $54 a month on a foodshort island where the top rations amount to 1600 calories a day and where rice, his diet staple, costs 25¢ a pound on the free-market on which the people must depend to supplement their diets, CARE reports. But a Chauffeur for the Shima Taxi Company, advantageously placed since transportation is at a premium on Okinawa, can count on a net monthly income of $80 - his $40 salary plus tips. And while employees of the Okinawa Civil Administration's Department of Education - librarians, teachers, etc. - earn an average of $21.96 a month, a truck driver for OCA's Public Works Depart- averages $26.14 a month - and has the opportunity to take advantage of good buys in food and clothing as he drives about the countryside.

This picture of the professional person's "squeeze" between salaries and inflated living costs is reflected, with local variations, in reports of CARE representatives throughout Europe and Asia and underlines the continued need for gifts of CARE food and textile packages.

Particularly in the East, where so much of the world's attention must now center, gifts of food to ease widespread hunger can mean vital help in establishing new nations on a sound democratic basis.

On the sub-continent of India and Pakistan, where CARE recently extended its services, there are some 12,000,000 refugees, about equally divided between the two countries - Muslims who fled from India, Hindus who fled from Pakistan in the disturbances that accompanied partition. Herded in over-crowded refugee camps and colonies, forced to leave their possessions behind them in their flight, deprived of their livelihood, they need food and clothing and a bolstering word of friendship to help them start their lives anew.

In this new group of "Displaced Persons," once again it is the professional and white-collar man or woman who is the most hard-pressed. The farmer, given a patch of land, can raise some food for his family. The professional person must search for the too-few jobs that need his skill --

Miss Anima Bose, holder of a Master's degree in English, for ten years a lecturer at a girls' college in Dacca, in what is now Pakistan, well knows what that means. She is the main support of her family, which includes her invalided father, her mother, brother and sister. Yet since coming to Calcutta last Winter, in the aftermath of partition, she has applied for almost 100 jobs of various kinds, without success. She and her family now live with an uncle who has a family of five and earns only 175 Rupees a month - about $35 - as a government clerk. The uncle pays 40 Rupees a month for one room and a kitchen, and in these cramped quarters both families live. On what is left of his salary 11 people must be fed and clothed.

The refugee problem comes to India at a time when it is confronted with a serious food shortage. Famine is feared in Bengal Province the last half of this year. Several starvation deaths have already been

reported in Bihar Province, and entire communities have been reduced to eating leaves and grass. In the State of Madras there are rumors of parents who have sold their children because they could not afford to feed them.

India is not alone in the shortage of food, nor are its people the only ones sorely in need of such gifts as CARE packages. Unemployment is rising in the Philippines, and there are an estimated 100,000 unemployed in the city of Manila alone. In Japan, where the average monthly wage is $25, all members of a family who are able must work at whatever job they can find in order to buy enough fish and rice to sustain the family at the barest subsistence level. Tuberculosis, following on the heels of malnutrition, takes a toll of 15 deaths every hour in Japan.

And despite the surface prosperity that is displayed for tourists, the average European continues to feel the pinch of hunger. CARE surveys taken over the summer tell the story --

Meat is practically non-existent for Norway's people; they are living almost solely on fish. Austria is using 65 percent of its Marshall Plan aid to import food, instead of being able to use the funds for industrial projects that would restore the country's self-sufficiency as an exporting power. In Italy, which has 4,000,000 unemployed, the contents of a $10 CARE food package would cost $19.20 - even spaghetti is a luxury to many families. Greece's people live mainly on pulses, potatoes, greens and any foodstuff that contains a lot of filling starches; proteins are priced out of reach. In Yugoslavia, most recent addition to CARE's European area of service, the people must buy on the free-market to raise their strictly-rationed diets to nourishing standards. But average wages in Yugoslavia are 4,000 dinars - about $80 - a month, and two pounds of milk powder cost a full week's wages on the free-market.

Against that background of need, CARE appeals to Americans to continue sending CARE packages overseas. At a time when idealogies are so important, the person-to-person channels of CARE giving - from librarian to librarian, doctor to teacher, trade unionist to trade unionist - bring not only vital material aid but a sense of "sameness" and understanding.

Supplementing the food for hungry stomachs, and equally important for long-range needs, is CARE's "food for the mind" - the CARE-UNESCO Book Fund program, endorsed by the American Library Association, to provide the latest and best scientific and technical works for war-depleted libraries abroad. By sharing bread, and by sharing knowledge, through CARE, Americans can take an active part in laying the groundwork for a better world.

Edward W. Joyce, Jr
Director
New England CARE Committee
175 Tremont Street
Boston, Massachusetts

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The following correspondence brings up to date the Library's standing in the matter of the 40-hour week law, (chapter 657 of the Acts of 1948). At the hearing on August 28, 1950, the B.P.L.P.S.A. was represented by Mr Charles J. Gillis, who was authorized by the Executive Board of the B.P.L.P.S.A. to place the Association on record as favoring the continuation of the existing status. Other groups and organizations within the Library were represented at the hearing.

CITY OF BOSTON
Office of
CLERK OF COMMITTEES
City Hall

August 24, 1950

Edna G. Peck, President
Boston Public Library
Professional Staff Ass'n
c/o Boston Public Library
Library Building
Copley Square
Boston, Mass.

Dear Madam:

You are respectfully requested to attend a meeting of the City Council Executive Committee to be held in the City Council Chamber on Monday, August 28, 1950 at 2:30 P.M.

SUBJECT: 40 hour work week.

For the Committee:
(signed) ROBERT E. GREEN
Clerk of Committees

August 29, 1950

Dear Mr Lord:

At a meeting of the Executive Board held today, Mr Charles Gillis gave a report to the Board of the meeting held before the City Council Executive Committee on August 28, at which he represented the Association.

The problems involved in the length of the work week and compensation for overtime work are matters of extreme interest to members of the Association.

Because of the many conflicting rumors among members of the staff, the Executive Board believes that a statement from you at this time to the staff clarifying the situation would be welcomed.

The Executive Board is anxious to cooperate with the administration of the Library in any way it can, and would appreciate receiving information from you concerning developments as they arise, upon which the Association might base a course of action.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) RUTH CANNELL

Vice President

12 September 1950

Dear Miss Peck:

The Director has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of August 29, 1950 from Miss Ruth Cannell, Vice President of your Association in representation of the Executive Board.

He has asked me to send to you a copy of the notice which today is being released to members of the staff relative to the five-day forty-hour week.

It is believed that the information contained therein will clarify the situation to date relative to compensation for overtime work. A further statement will be made when a final decision has been reached in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) John J. Connolly

Assistant to the Director
and
Chief Executive Officer

To Members of the Staff:

Chapter 657 of the Acts of 1948 restricted the service of all employees of the city to five days and forty hours in any one week. Since the passage of the Act there has been under discussion between the City Auditor and library officials the matter of hourly rates of pay in relation to the five-day forty-hour week.

The City Auditor on the basis of this Act ruled that the hourly overtime rate of pay in the City service was to be based on 1/40th of the weekly rate of pay, even for those individuals who do not actually work a 40 hour week as for example in the Library: Cleaners (30 hours a week), Clerical (35 hours a week), Bibliothecal Workers (35 hours a week), and Printers and Binders (37½ hours a week). Up to the present time this ruling had not been put into effect in the Library.

Recently the City Auditor stated that it is his interpretation of the Act that hourly overtime rates of pay based on the five-day forty-hour week must become effective in the Library unless action is taken to exempt library employees from the operation of the above-mentioned Act. The Trustees of the Library thereupon brought the matter to the attention of His Honor the Mayor with a request that the matter be given consideration by him with a view to initiating action towards such exemption before the City Council. It was the Mayor's belief that library employees should be exempted from the provisions of the Act and he therefore forwarded an order to the City Council recommending exemption of the Library from the provisions of the Act.

The City Council received the order and laid it on the table with instructions that both library officials and library employees be heard before action was taken. A hearing was held on Monday, August 28, 1950, at which both sides were heard, and the matter was again laid on the table for an additional two-week period with the request by the City Council that the City Auditor, the Law Department, and the Library confer jointly in an endeavor to reach a solution that will not disturb the existing arrangements in the Library. This conference was held on Monday, September 11, 1950 and the matter has now been taken under advisement by the City Auditor.

It is believed that an adequate arrangement can be effected whereby the existing

and current practice in the Library for determining hourly overtime rates of pay will remain unchanged. A further statement will be made when a final decision is made in this matter.

MILTON E. LORD

Director

12 September 1950

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TRUSTEES VISIT OTHER LIBRARIES

On Monday, August 21, 1950, three of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library, accompanied by the Director, left Boston on a five-day tour of certain libraries in the eastern and midwestern part of the country. The three Trustees who made the trip were Mr Frank W. Buxton, Mr Lee M. Friedman, and Monsignor Robert H. Lord. Judge Frank Donahue was prevented from accompanying his fellow members of the Board of Trustees because of the death of his sister. Mr Francis B. Masterson had to remain in the city because of business. It is the hope of both Judge Donahue and Mr Masterson that they may make a similar trip at a future date.

The trip took the Trustees and the Director to New York, Princeton, Baltimore, Toledo, Cleveland and Detroit. The first day was spent in travelling by plane to New York and then by automobile to and from Princeton, where the new Harvey S. Firestone Memorial Library of Princeton University was visited. Both the morning and afternoon of the following day were spent at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland. Wednesday was spent studying the Toledo Public Library. Thursday the Trustees and the Director spent in Cleveland visiting the central library building. The night was spent at the Hotel Cleveland, so recently headquarters of the A.L.A. Convention. On Friday the group flew to Detroit where both morning and afternoon were spent, as had been the previous four days, visiting, observing, questioning, and answering. That evening the group left Detroit by a plane due in Boston at 8:05 p.m.

With the impending building program facing them, the Board of Trustees made this trip to get first-hand information, ideas, and impressions to be drawn on when arriving at their final plans for the use of the accrued Josiah H. Benton Building Fund, as well as the accruing John Deferrari Fund. From newspaper reports, it is apparent that they did not limit their interest to architectural details. Work with foreign groups, open stacks, exhibits, audio-visual programs, subject departments activities, etc., find mention in the news coverage of their visits.

The visit of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library was news in the local presses. Both news columns and editorial space were given over to their stay, brief as it was in many cases. Apart from serving a practical purpose of their own, it would appear that the trip of the Trustees gave the local libraries they visited a chance to "make the news" and helped publicize libraries and library problems in general. A selection of clippings from the press of the various cities they visited is being posted on the staff bulletin board.

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READING THEN AND NOW

In the Library Journal for August 1924 there was included a paper prepared and read before the second general session of the ALA Conference at Saratoga Springs, New York, on July 1, 1924, by Mr Frank H. Chase, Reference Librarian at the Boston Public Library. Mr Chase had taken for his subject, "What the People are Reading in Boston". Below we quote several paragraphs from that article and suggest that you may find interest in applying them to conditions existing in 1950.

"Public libraries were, I suppose, founded with the aim of encouraging people to read; my observations, however, have convinced me that the people have got far beyond the need of encouragement. They are all gaily reading exactly what they please, under the library's nose, and behind its back; and the librarian is quite unfamiliar with a great portion of their chosen reading-matter."

"It is futile for the public library in large centres of population to compete with this great stream of uncensored reading matter - newspapers, magazines, bound fiction. The people are reading; we no longer need to urge or encourage them. And they are willing and able to pay for what they want to read. It is interesting to note in this connection that the circulating libraries have come to regard the public library as an impertinent intruder

in the field which belongs of right to them. There are about 435 of these institutions in Boston; and they object to paying taxes in order that the Public Library may be aided to compete with their business!"

"The public libraries have a great field of service in caring for the needs of earnest students of all types. They are responsible for providing the real books of the past for all who wish to read them. They have the great task of training the children of the community in right habits of reading, and the equally important one of carrying on the work of Americanization thru the wise use of the printed page.

"In short, the constructive social work of the public library in promoting education and general culture is unlimited. We ought especially to give to the person who is out of school, and dependent upon us, whatever he wants for self-education; this is the most important civic function of the library."

"The people can and will get what they want to read; we cannot stop them, and it would not be our duty if we could. As a whole, they are quite indifferent whether the public library buys 'The Plastic Age' or not; librarians spend hours trying to decide whether to purchase one or two copies , and while they debate, the people of Boston have purchased 1,500 copies, from a single bookstore. They do not need our help in getting current fiction. They are independent, as befits this pleasure-chasing age; why not admit it? We could not satisfy this static demand if we would; and, if we could, it would not be worth while.

"What program have I to suggest? Briefly, minimize the static element in library service, which does not count, and correspondingly magnify the dynamic element, which counts tremendously.

"I would try to persuade every public library to place all its current fiction, with a few rare exceptions, in a 'pay' or rental collection. Those whose happiness depends on their having a novel while it is new can get it from such a collection on the same terms as at a commercial circulating library. At the end of a year, the hot demand is over, and the books, at least in large part, are paid for. They can then be transferred to the regular collection, where they will become available like any other library book. I would further cut down to a minimum the replacement of the adult fiction which wears out, except for works of acknowledged literary merit.

"The money thus saved I would put into serious, constructive service - into the material for adult education, in its various phases, and into publicity which should bring it home to the people that they can get at the public library whatever they want of solid value. For this work - the purveying of education - we are and always shall be better placed than the newspapers and magazines or the circulating libraries. This field - the field of the dynamic - is ours. The static field of amusement belongs to the periodical press, the circulating library, and the movies; at best, we can only scratch it. The story of the 'better mousetrap' applies here: the people have found the way to the ephemeral reading-matter which they want, and have made it a broad and beaten road; let us supply books of permanent value so effectively that our public will come just as surely and confidently as does that of the Sunday paper or the Western Story Magazine."

"What are the people reading in Boston? The answer depends on who 'The People' are. In every community there are at least four distinct reading publics: the children, the foreign-born and those handicapped by circumstances in the race for education, the students, and the great mass who turn to books for excitement or relaxation. The first three of these classes read for growth, and are ours; the fourth is inert, and, as a whole, we cannot touch it. We should bend to our honorable task, and leave this mass to those who can reach it. Our path of service lies elsewhere."

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FOURTH LETTER FROM MURIEL C. FIGENBAUM

One wonderful thing in Europe is the way one can combine business with pleasure, especially if the business is art and in Switzerland. I was particularly anxious to see the renowned private collections of modern French painting in Winterthur, a lovely small city near Zurich. I wrote to make arrangements for seeing the Hahnloser and the Reinhart Collections, and even the answers I received gave me some idea of what to expect. Madame Hahnloser sent me postcards with Renoir bathers, and in rather poor French and very difficult handwriting informed me that I could come at ten in the morning on any Thursday, but if I couldn't make a Thursday there was usual-

ly a maid who could show me the paintings if she herself could not be there. She expressed her feeling for her collection in the words, "I do not have a museum, but my friends fill all my rooms".

My reply from Dr Reinhart was quite different. It was business-like, written by a secretary in beautiful English, and informed me that Thursday afternoon was the time for visitors. I was to let them know which Thursday I planned to come. When I complied, I was sent a card of introduction with that date and my name written very plainly on it, with a personal card of Dr Reinhart.

When I arrived in Winterthur I went immediately to Madame Hahnloser's home in order to make the most of my ten to twelve morning. I reached her house, a very unpretentious frame building such as might be seen in any Boston suburb, and rang the bell. An elderly lady came to the door, wearing a faded wrapper and with her grey hair askew. It was Madame Hahnloser and she explained that the maid had had to go to church, and that the cat had had kittens and was very sick, which accounted for her unpreparedness. She and the maid had been up most of the night with the cat, and even now the cat cried every time she was left alone. Madame Hahnloser left me in a living room filled with Renoirs while she went up to see the cat. When she returned she explained something of her collection, which had started with the nineteenth century French painter, Adolphe Monticelli, and went to present day Georges Rouault. She and the maid took turns taking me from room to room, and looking at the cat. It was soon evident that her friends really did fill her rooms. Each room was a surprise - paintings that I had seen reproduced many times were all there. I came upon them in the living room, in the dining room, in the bedrooms, and even where the poor cat was crying in her basket with the kittens. Madame Hahnloser has about fifty Bonnards, probably the most important collection in existence. She was one of the earliest to befriend the artist and collect his work. Among other wonderful paintings were superb Cezannes, Van Goghs, Vuillards, Lautrecs, Redons, to mention but a few. Behind the house was a lovely garden where a few choice pieces of sculpture were placed. I left with the feeling that Madame Hahnloser was among her friends all the time, and that she was very pleased when anyone came to see the paintings that she loved, even though it meant opening her personal rooms.

Two French-speaking people had joined us during the morning, and the three of us lunched together before setting forth for Dr Reinhart's showing from two to four in the afternoon. At his address we entered a long winding road which led to a beautiful estate located on the crest of a hill, overlooking the hills surrounding Winterthur. A maid let us in, requested our introductory cards and our personal cards. We were then allowed to go in to the first gallery. Yes, it was indeed a museum, beautifully arranged in chronological order, with absolutely no crowding. The maid gave us copies of a catalogue and we proceeded from room to room. There were beautiful things from Breughel to Cezanne, and what Cezannes! Lautrec, Monet, Renoir and Manet were also there, and some beautiful Daumier drawings. The grounds around the house were carefully kept, with sculpture here and there, but they had nothing of the friendly intimacy of Madame Hahnloser's gardens. Somehow, her concern about our enjoyment of her paintings and the little episode about the kittens, gave just that personal touch which made her paintings live.

Muriel C. Figenbaum

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Gide, Andre
  Two symphonies
  New York, Knopf, 1949
Howe, Helen H.
  The circle of the day
  New York, Simon & Schuster, 1950
Richter, Conrad
  The town
  New York, Knopf, 1950
Steele, Max
  Debby
  New York, Harper, 1950
Vittorini, Elio
  In Sicily
  New York, New Directions, 1949
Warren, Robert P.
  World enough and time
  New York, Random House, 1950

Non-fiction

Bowen, Catherine D.
John Adams and the American Revolution
Boston, Little Brown, 1950
Casey, Robert J.
The Texas border and some borderliners
Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1950
Crawford, Marion
The little princesses
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1950
Crossman, Richard H. S., ed.
The god that failed
New York, Harper, 1949
Haines, Helen E.
Living with books 2d ed.
New York, Columbia University Press,1950
Lehmann-Haupt, Hellmut
One hundred books about bookmaking
New York, Columbia University Press,1949
Menninger, Karl A.
Man against himself
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1938
Perkins, Maxwell E.
Editor to author
New York, Scribner, 1950

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BRANCH NOTES

Jamaica Plain

"It's a small world" - we often hear it said - and apparently our world is getting smaller all the time. A new exhibit entitled "Books of Many Nations" will contribute toward a better understanding of the ways of life in other countries.

Brightly colored pictures denoting many scenes of beauty throughout the world meet the eye upon entering the library - the Eiffel Tower at Paris, a Swiss Street Scene, St. Peter's, Vatican City, Rome, Light and Shadows in New York City, and the Arc de Triomphe. The Children's Museum of Jamaica Plain has contributed to the display by lending an exhibit of articles from the Mediterranean lands and the Balkan States. In the glass-enclosed cabinet in the main room of the library are castanets from Italy, a pottery vase made in Spain, pressed flowers from the Holy Land, a Morrocan leather bag, dolls in the national Greek costume, and an Egyptian basket. The glass show case in the adult reading room also contains some authentic and facinating foreign items - pottery and a blanket from the Near East, a small leather water jug, and some Croatian shoes.

The books, which are the central theme of the exhibit, are just as varied as the pictures and the articles. They have been selected from the shelves with an eye to representing as many nations of the world as possible. The predominantly blue and yellow motif of the pictures is carried over into a poster which names the whole display. It all adds up to an exhibit well worth seeing, and everyone is invited to come to the library and get acquainted with the books of many nations of our world.

South End

Mrs Anna Lou Shanor, assistant in the Children's Room, who is touring Europe with her husband, has been in Oberammergau Germany. One of the high lights of her trip through Oberammergau was the Passion Play, which she says was a magnificent production really amazing since it draws on the talents of only one village. But before the next time she sees it, she will learn German. While in Austria, Mrs Shanor visited relatives of Miss Martha Engler, Children's Librarian, and had a delightful time.

Mt. Pleasant

Miss Gladys White, Branch Librarian, left by plane on September 4 for five weeks tour in Europe. After a short stay with her brother, Mr Theodore White, author of "Thunder Out of China", and his family in Paris, she will visit other points of interest. She will return by plane and is expected back about October 15. The staff presented Miss White with a Travel Diary and a corsage just before she left.

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LATE FLASH

Engagement

Miss Marie F. McCarthy, Book Purchasing Department, to Mr Herbert C. Hewes, Jr., student at Northeastern University.

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MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Fall Meeting, October 6 - 7, 1950
New Ocean House, Swampscott

PROGRAM

Friday, October 6, 1950

1:30 P. M. Registration

2:30 P. M. Panel Discussion: "Intercultural Action Through the Library."

Chairman, Edna Phillips, Librarian, Norwood Public Library, and Chairman, 1944-1950, Committee on Intercultural Action, American Library Association.

Panel Members:

David K. Berninghausen, Librarian, Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art Library, New York, and Chairman, Committee on Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association.

Dorothy Homer, Librarian, 135th St. Branch, New York Public Library.

Alice O'Connor, Chief, Division of Immigration, Massachusetts Department of Education.

Other participants to be announced in printed program.

4:30 P. M. Business meeting of the Association.

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8:00 P. M. Speaker: Henry C. Wolfe, Foreign Affairs Expert, Correspondent, Lecturer, Author of "The German Octopus", "Human Dynamite", and "The Imperial Soviets".

Subject: "What's Happening in World Affairs."

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Saturday, October 7, 1950

9:45 A. M. Speaker: Mrs Mildred Van Deusen Mathews, Supervisor, Adult Services, New York Public Library.

Subject: "Good Reading - Can It Be Stimulated?"

10:30 A. M. Panel Discussion: "If Not the People's University - Then What?"

Chairman, Miriam Putnam, Librarian, Memorial Library, Andover, and Chairman, Adult Education Section, Division of Public Libraries, American Library Association.

Panel Members:

Sigrid Edge, Professor of Library Science, Simmons College.

Mildred Mathews, Supervisor, Adult Services, New York Public Library.

Wayne Shirley, Librarian, Pratt Institute, and Dean, Library School.

Thurston Taylor, Librarian, Worcester Free Public Library.

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2:30 P. M. The Hewins Lecture

Introduction: Frederic G. Melcher, President, R. R. Bowker Company, and Founder of the Hewins Lecture.

Speaker: Jennie D. Lindquist, Managing Editor, Horn Book

Subject: "Caroline M. Hewins and Books for Children."

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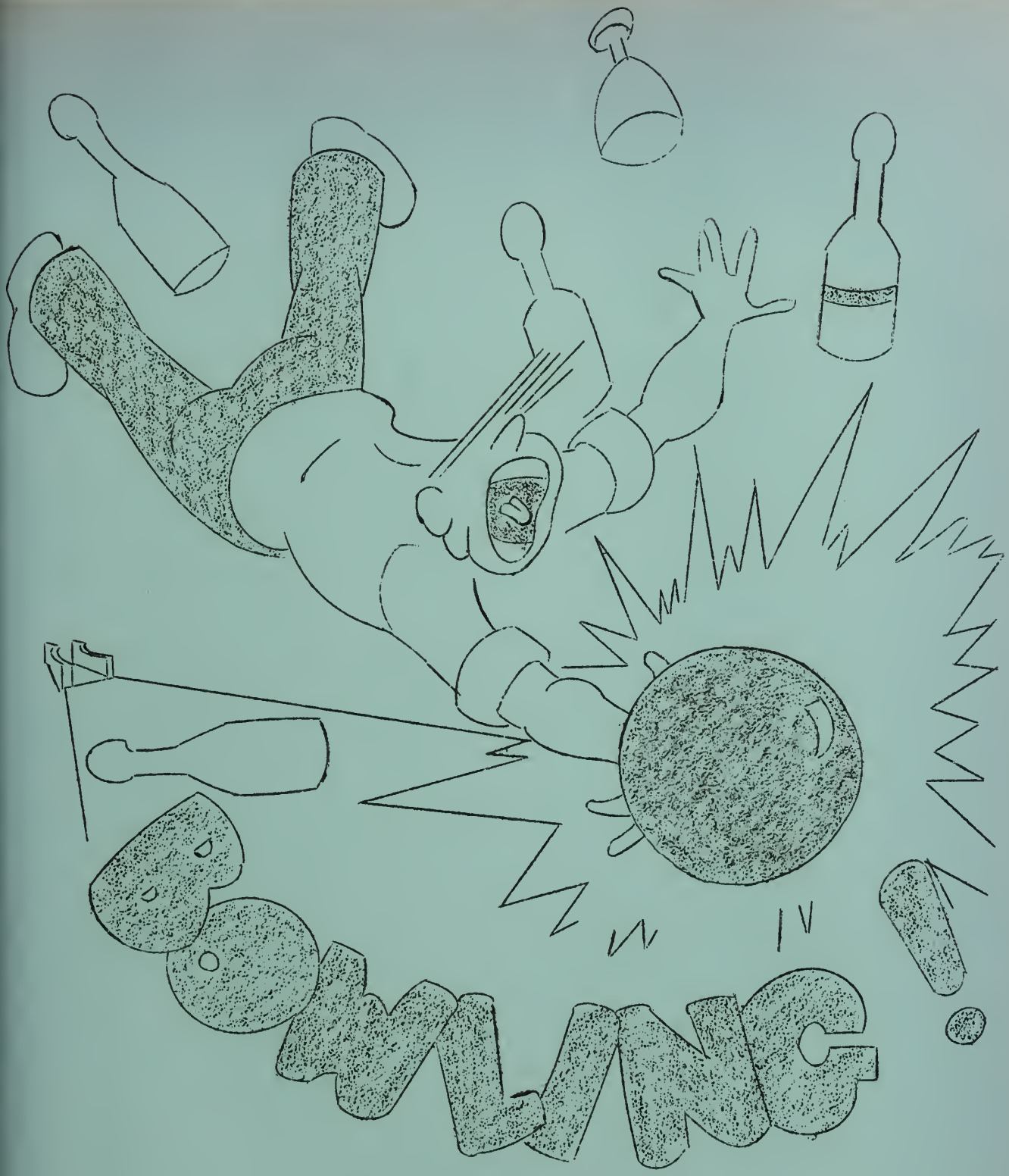

The bowling season starts again!
Opening night -- Tuesday, September 26, 1950

All those interested, get in touch with:

Frank Bruno, Patent Room
or
Arthur Mulloney, Statistical Department

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume V, Number 10 October 1950

Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, M. Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

With the memory of a very successful meeting of the Massachusetts Library Association still fresh in our minds, it seems a fitting time to recommend membership in this state-wide professional organization. The especially satisfying program was an example of what the Association can bring to its members by way of inspiration and help in working out problems common to all libraries regardless of size and location.

On the other hand, we should point out that membership in the Association is not a matter of receiving only, but also one of giving. For the Association to continue to function progressively, it must have the active support of its members through prompt payment of dues, attendance at meetings, and participation in committee work. Obviously this is as necessary in a state organization as we all know it to be in the BPLPSA, within one library.

The Massachusetts Library Association is now manifesting its positive interest in the welfare of libraries and librarians in the state by concerning itself with surveys of libraries made by non-library agencies, by continuing its sponsorship of the Conference on State Aid for Libraries in Massachusetts, and by taking a stand on the intellectual freedom resolution. Such interest on the part of the Association in the advancement of the profession of librarianship should be encouraged and supported by membership in the Association.

We venture to put into black and white a comment often expressed verbally by assistants in the Boston Public Library, "Why should I join? My boss goes to every meeting, and I never have a chance to go." We believe that heads of departments and branch librarians, in encouraging assistants to join the state organization, should assure them -- and then put that assurance into practice — that they will share equally with their chiefs in being allowed to take advantage of the Library's generous policy of granting time for attendance at meetings of the Massachusetts Library Association.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Miss Mary V. Curado, Book Purchasing Department.

Miss Gracemarie V. Alfe, North End Branch Library. (Miss Alfe has worked for a number of years in branch libraries as a part-time assistant).

Engagements

Miss Margaret Gallagher, Dorchester Branch Library, to Mr Robert A. Sagar of North Quincy.

Resignations

Miss Lois M. Shoemaker, History Department, to be married and to live in Paris where her husband will be studying at the Sorbonne.

Mrs Victoria V. Cronin, Book Purchasing Department, to remain at home.

Mrs Jean A. Horton, Connolly Branch Library, to remain at home.

Military Service

Mr Michael Venezia, General Reference Department, entered United States Navy.

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PARTIES, SHOWERS, WEDDINGS

On September 13, Miss Dorothy K. Becker and Miss Charlotte A. Myers were honored at a dinner in the Terrace Room of the Hotel Statler. Both girls were genuinely surprised when each was presented with a gift. Miss Becker received a traveling clock in maroon alligator leather (as a poor substitute for the Lincoln car she really would have liked!), while Miss Myers was presented with a sterling silver scatter pin. The occasion was climaxed by crepes suzettes prepared by the "Captain" of the waiters himself, because, in his own words, we were "the nicest party in the room". The gay party finally ended much to everyone's sorrow, for the occasion had been a final get-together for the staff of North End Branch Library with Miss Becker, who had been transferred to Connolly Branch Library, and with Miss Myers, who was leaving the service. Both girls are being missed very much by both children and staff. North End recalls the days with Miss Becker and Miss Myers with many pleasant memories.

*

On Thursday, September 28, a bridal shower was given in the Women's Lounge, in honor of Miss Patricia R. Taylor of the Book Stack Service. Pat was presented with a collective gift from all her friends and well-wishers from this department and other parts of the library.

*

Another one of the girls of the Book Stack Service has joined the ranks of the young marrieds. On September 4, Labor Day, Miss Gloria Oxman became the bride of Mr Arthur Becker of Connecticut, at the Southern House in Brookline in a quiet ceremony, officiated at by Rabbi Joseph Shubow. The bride, attended by her sister, wore a street-length, ice-blue satin suit with a matching hat and veil. A family reception followed the ceremony. The couple will make their home in Boston.

*

At ten o'clock on Saturday, September 9, at St. Augustine's Church in South Boston, Miss Claire Sanderson of Kirstein Business Branch became the lovely bride of Mr Donald Grushey, a student at Boston College. She wore a beautiful off-the-shoulder gown of ivory satin with a back panier of Chantilly lace. The two bridesmaids' gowns were of a dusty-rose lace, and the maid of honor wore a similar gown of nile-green lace.

About one hundred guests joined the bride and groom in celebrating the wedding at Blinstrub's Village. Picturesque Lake George in New York was the location chosen for the honeymoon.

*

At a candlelight service, Miss Adrienne I. Murray, of the Roslindale Branch Library, was married to Mr Edmond G. Dyett, Jr. on Saturday, September 16, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown. The ceremony was performed by the bride's uncle, Reverend Sherrill Bronson Smith. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of ivory slipper satin and Chantilly lace. Her net veil was trimmed with pearls and orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of white roses and white orchids. The matron of honor, Mrs Marion Sneath, cousin of the bride, wore turquoise satin and carried pink roses. The Staff of the Roslindale Branch Library attended the reception which was held at the Parish House. Mr and Mrs Dyett are motoring through Canada on their honeymoon trip.

*

Miss Fern Schoonmaker, assistant in the Children's Room of the Brighton Branch Library, was married to Mr Jasper Ingersoll on Saturday, September 16. The couple are residing in Cambridge while Mr Ingersoll continues his studies at Harvard.

*

Miss Patricia R. Taylor of the Book Stack Service was given in marriage by her father, Mr Edward Taylor, when she became the bride of Pvt. James T. Halley of the U. S. Marine Corps, at St. Gregory's Church, Dorchester, on October 1.

The bride was exquisitely gowned in traditional satin with a delicate lace bertha. Pat was attended by her sister, Miss Kathleen Taylor, who wore rose taffeta, and the groom's sister, Patty Halley, who acted as flower girl and wore white printed organdy over a pale yellow underskirt. A reception was held at the Kane Post in Dorchester, after which Pvt. and Mrs Halley departed on a New York and Washington honeymoon.

*

On Saturday morning, October 7, at a 10 o'clock Nuptial Mass at St. Columbkille's Church, Brighton, Miss Rita R. McCarthy was married to Mr James P.J. Gannon of the Binding Department.

A large gathering of relatives and friends attended the ceremony which was followed by a reception held at the Hotel Shelton. The couple later left by plane on their honeymoon.

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WE WELCOME BACK

Mrs Helen Hirson, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

Miss Elizabeth Kernachan, Parker Hill Branch Library, after an interrupted vacation and a long siege of illness.

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ACCIDENT

While doing her Saturday marketing a few weeks ago, Miss Mary A. Hackett, Branch Librarian, Parker Hill Branch Library, was knocked down by a gentleman and suffered a fractured right arm. Although the sling she has to wear is a wonderful conversation piece, she will be glad to discard it as soon as possible.

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RECENT VISITORS

Dr Harold White, Librarian of the National Library of Australia.

Dr L. W. Sharp, Librarian, University of Edinburgh.

Miss Barbara Kyle, Librarian, Royal Institute of International Affairs, London.

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IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE H. CONNOR

Once again Father Time has entered the ranks of the "old timers" and taken by the hand one of our former co-workers, George H. Connor.

Mr Connor was one of our pensioners and first came into the service in 1891; therefore, he was one of the staff members of what was so fondly called by them, "the old building" on Boylston Street.

When our present building was opened in 1895, Mr Connor was assigned to the Shelf Department, where he was in charge of all Central library books which required binding, etc. He continued as a member of that department until he was retired in 1937. In addition to being a member of the regular staff, he was also a member of the old Sunday and evening service.

Mr Connor was a charter member of the Employees' Benefit Association, and was a member of the original Quarter Century Club.

Although we should always look forward to the future, it is a matter of temporary pleasure to recall memories of past happy times spent together in many ways; for instance, at the regular monthly dinner of the "Tuesday Club", in which George took particular delight; or, at the gripping games of bid whist which we all enjoyed, none more so than George.

George was possessed of a disposition which made him very easy to get along with. He greatly disliked arguments, etc., which might prove a source of disagreeableness among his co-workers.

The older members of the staff will always hold in fond memory George H. Connor.

Abraham Snyder

*

BLANCHE E. TREIBER

The many friends of Miss Blanche E. Treiber, who was a member of the staff of the Roslindale Branch Library since 1944, were saddened to learn of her sudden death on September 27. Although she had been with the Library only a few years, she had endeared herself to her co-workers and to the public. She had a great deal of enthusiasm for her work and her love for

people and books showed in her friendly service to the public. Miss Treiber was an accomplished violinist, and before she entered the Boston Public Library in 1943, she was a color chemist.

Miss Treiber was a faithful member of the BPLPSA and a strong supporter of its cultural and social activities. She will be greatly missed by her friends and associates.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Those members of the staff who have worked with Mrs Dora Feldman Bailey, who was Children's Librarian at South End Branch Library, will be interested to know that she is now in Paris studying languages at the Alliance Francaise. Mrs Bailey served in the Army as a WAC and after her discharge went to Pratt Institute Library School. She has been working for the last four years as Reference Librarian and Reader's Advisor in the New York Public Library. She is now on leave of absence for a year, and plans to travel through as many countries as possible before her return to New York.

THIRD ALUMNAE TEA

The tea given on Saturday afternoon, September twenty-third, by Miss Edith Guerrier had a dual significance. Not only was it the third annual get-together of the "Seventy Plus", it was also a celebration of Miss Guerrier's eightieth birthday which had taken place the previous Wednesday. Birthday cards, totalling nearly as many in number as the years they marked, were arranged on the mantlepiece. Flowers received on September twentieth were profuse and still beautiful. Pictures of the group were taken under the trees before the serving of tea. The high point in the afternoon came when Miss Guerrier was presented with a birthday cake topped by eighty candles. This had been made and decorated by Miss Dorothy F. Nourse.

Colored slides taken this summer while Miss Peck, Miss Morgan, and Miss Haviland traveled through England, Scotland, Wales, and parts of the continent were shown by Miss Haviland.

In addition to Mrs Ada A. Andelman, Supervisor of Home Reading Services, Branch Librarians, Emeritus, who attended were: Misses Katie F. Albert, Mary E. Ames, M. Florence Cufflin, Clara L. Maxwell, Mary M. Sullivan, Geneva Watson, Rebecca E. Willis. The following, who had been prevented from coming by various reasons, were missed: Branch Librarians, Emeritus, Mrs Edith H. Bailey, Misses Anne M. Donovan, Carrie L. Morse, Katharine F. Muldoon, Katherine S. Rogan; Miss Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus, and Miss Marion A. McCarthy, Chief of Book Preparation Department, Emeritus.

The "Caterers", under the chairmanship of Miss Dorothy F. Nourse, were Miss A. Virginia Haviland, Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Miss Margaret A. Morgan, Miss Edna G. Peck, Mrs Gertrude K. Stoddard, and Miss Sarah M. Usher.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The fact that fall is here with all its attendant duties and the added fact that another Association year is drawing to a close was forcefully brought home to the Executive Board at the last meeting. The report of the nominating committee, appointed to draw up a full slate of candidates for the annual election of officers to be held in January, 1951, was presented to the Board. The committee has done a competent and thorough job. The slate of officers will be presented to the Association as a whole at the business meeting on November 17, 1950. Please read the by-laws of the constitution regarding elections in order that you may be prepared to carry on where the nominating committee left off.

*

The fashion show long under discussion, has not been "shelved". Miss Mary A. Hackett, chairman of the Entertainment Committee, is still negotiating for a date and hopes for results in the near future.

*

The opening of the Staff Concession will take place shortly. The unforeseen, not to mention the foreseen emergencies which

develop when starting such a project are frequent. However, the end, or rather the beginning, is in sight. Mr Aaron Starr, chairman of the Concessions Committee reports that, with only an ordinary number of emergencies within the next couple of weeks, the Concession should be in operation in the very near future.

*

The re-organized Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Committee under the chairmanship of Geraldine M. Beck is now functioning as a special committee of the BPLPSA. According to the action of the Executive Board, this committee is to serve for one year "to bring into being and steer safely through the first year the initial series of lectures to be given in memory of Mrs Hartzell and thus to serve as a model for future committees and to get the project off to a good start in the direction which the Committee had hoped it would take." Your support and interest in this project is earnestly sought in order to carry it to a successful conclusion.

*

The President represented the BPLPSA at the meeting called by the Director and held in the Trustees' Room on Thursday, October 5, regarding the final ruling by the City Auditor concerning the basis of the rates of overtime compensation.

*

The Association was represented at the funeral services for Miss Blanche E. Treiber on Friday, October 6, by Miss Ruth S. Cannell.

*

It was reported in the July (1950) issue of The Question Mark that a special Steering Committee had been appointed to draw up plans for the proposed series of workshops to be conducted during the spring of 1951. This committee under the chairmanship of Miss Evelyn Levy is now hard at work devising plans for the next In-Service Training Program. The committee would appreciate your suggestions. It is hoped to have the workshops cover as wide a range of interests as is practical within a limited period of time. Miss Levy at the Brighton Branch Library will be glad to accept for the committee any suggestions concerning the workshops which staff members may have.

*

Mrs Geraldine Herrick, chairman of the Program Committee has completed plans for the first fall meeting of the Association. For details of this meeting, see the last page. Remember this is not Mrs Herrick's meeting. It is a meeting of your Association, arranged for your pleasure by the Program Committee. If you do not attend you deprive yourself of a pleasant evening, deprive your friends of your company and deprive the Association of your support. Why not come and plan to avoid such wholesale "deprivation"? (It is with deep regret that the President has to admit that a speaking engagement made several weeks ago makes it impossible for her to attend this fall meeting. However, Miss Ruth S. Cannell, the Vice President, will preside. It is also rumored that the Entertainment Committee is going to help out on that score by providing refreshments).

*

The Executive Board was happy to have the opportunity to share, in a small way, in the entertainment of the four guests from Germany. A full report of their visit with us is given elsewhere in this issue.

*

Remember - November 17 - BPLPSA Business meeting in the BPL Lecture Hall, at 9 A. M.

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BPL ON TV

On Thursday, October 5, Mr Alexander J. Lambrinudi was interviewed by Bill Hahn on WNAC-TV. This was arranged in connection with the series of lectures on "Ancient Greece and Atomic Energy" which Mr Lambrinudi began in the Boston Public Library lecture hall that same evening.

He showed articles made in Greece.

On Friday, October 13, Mr John W. Tuley, was interviewed by Bill Hahn on WNAC-TV in connection with Fire Prevention Week. He emphasized especially the exhibits being held in Central library and in many of the branch libraries.

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INVITATION TO LEARNING IN THE B.P.L.

TREASURE ROOM

Come, stranger, linger here a little space,
Forget the thirty-eighth red parallel,
The mounting tax: allow your eyes to dwell
On rare old volumes open in the case:
Note here the demon, there the [illegible] face,
The woodcut titles with long tales to tell,
And vellum manuscripts that work their spell
With gold-illumed initials' pious grace.

Passions and hopes and dreams lie in these pages,
Preserved like insects in the amber's mold,
And thoughts all kindred spirits understand.
Linger, to feel the pulse of other ages,
Forbears of ours that, too, will soon be old -
Then go, refreshed, to meet the day's demand!

M. M.

****

BOOKMOBILE BANTER

A seven-year old boy made an unusual request. He wanted a "good" book for his mother and a "bad" one for his father. It was assumed that the boy was harboring a grudge against the father, but it was finally discovered by the questioning librarian that the oldest male member of the family likes murder stories!

Another of our more precocious readers, twelve years old to be exact, came to the Bookmobile for a copy of Plato for his weekend reading. This was the comment he made when a librarian questioned his choice: "I have been reading children's books for many years and at my age find them very boring."

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JAMAICA PLAIN PLAINTS

A small boy returned his books long overdue. The librarian asked sympathetically "What was the matter? Were you sick?" "No," replied the youngster sadly, "we had a death in the family". "I'm very sorry to hear that", replied the librarian, "Yeah", said the boy, "my dog died."

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WE GROW

The following poem appeared in Joe Harrington's "All Sorts" column in a recent edition of The Boston Post. Miss Wilson is a member of the Allston Branch Library Staff.

THIRD RAILLERY

(Pat Wilson, known to the readers of this column, experienced a nearly fatal accident at the Columbia rapid transit station at mid-summer. I doff the columnar bonnet to her high spirit and merry heart as she tells about it in verse.)

I never did a single thing
To warrant great attention
I never did a single thing,
That would defy convention.
But everybody has his fling,
To relish just a bit.
And my turn came quite suddenly,
For I fell in a subway pit.
Now this is not a wopper
And, my mind it did not fail.
They call me a train-stopper
For I hit on a live third rail.

Beauty contests, I'd never win--
But now I'll have my fun.
For I've been elected unanimously--
"Miss Voltage of '51."

PAT WILSON

Dorchester

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DIRECTOR ATTENDS LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF CARDINAL TISSERANT

The first week in October was characterized by visits to Boston by a number of individuals distinguished in library circles, the most distinguished being the former Prefect of the Vatican Library in Rome, who is now His Eminence Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, the second-ranking member of the College of Cardinals. Although his brief visit of little more than twenty-four hours in Boston would not permit His Eminence to visit the Library, he had word telephoned on in advance of his coming to Boston that he wished while here to renew with the Director of the Library old ties of friendship from earlier days in Rome. A happy arrangement to make this possible was brought into being when His Excellency Archbishop Cushing graciously invited Mr Lord to lunch with himself, His Eminence, His Excellency Bishop MacKenzie, Monsignor Edward G. Murray, the Rector of St. John's Seminary, and prominent clergy of the Archdiocese at the Cathedral Rectory immediately following a Pontifical Mass which was sung by the Cardinal on Friday morning, October 6.

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LIBRARIANS FROM GERMANY VISIT THE USA

Among the many activities sponsored by the U. S. Department of State is the program to acquaint librarians of other countries with public library activities here in the United States. The Director of the Boston Public Library has always felt a particularly keen interest in this work and from time to time the Department of State has requested that he arrange for visitors from other countries to see something of libraries in this area.

During the past month Mr Lord arranged a program for Miss Elisabeth Hetz of Erlangen, Miss Ida Thekla Kull of Munich, Mrs Gerlinde Schiffmann of Frankfort, and Miss Ina Westermann of Stuttgart. These German visitors are librarians employed by the Department of State in the U. S. Information Centers (Amerika Hauser) in Germany. They have been in this country since June 1st and have toured some of the southern and western states. Miss Westermann has had a period of observation and experience in Washington, Mrs Schiffman in Baltimore, and Misses Hetz and Kull in New York. It was felt by the Division of Libraries and Institutes of the Department of State that it would be particularly desirable for these visitors to see something of the New England area and Mr Lord was requested by the Department to arrange for such a period of observation.

Our visitors spent an entire day in the Central Library building and also visited a number of our branch libraries. Members of the staff undertook to show them something of the New England countryside and its historical landmarks. Visits were made to Salem, Marblehead, Lexington, and Concord. Through entertaining in the homes of some of the members of the staff the visitors had a first-hand opportunity to learn something of American home life and customs. Members of the Executive Board of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association arranged for the visitors to see a major league baseball game. The Boston Symphony Orchestra generously made available tickets for the first of the Tuesday series of concerts. Dr Keyes Metcalf arranged for a full day's visit to the libraries at Harvard University and Dr Vernon Tate arranged for a visit to the libraries of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Division of Libraries and Institutes of the Department of State also requested the Division of Public Libraries and Simmons College to aid in its program for our visitors. Mrs Genevieve Boisclair Galick of the Division of Public Libraries arranged for our visitors to observe the regional work being carried on by the Division and to have an opportunity to see the beginning of the Conway experiment and the opening of the Youth Library in Fitchburg. Mr Kenneth R. Shaffer, Director of the School of Library Science, arranged for the visitors to see Simmons College.

It is expected that our visitors will go on to Baltimore for the meeting of the Maryland Library Association and then to Richmond for the meetings of the State Library Association of Virginia and eventually as far south as Georgia.

We hope that our German visitors will have found here much that will be of value to them in their work.

M. G. B.

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

An exhibit in observance of Fire Prevention Week, October 8 through October 14, is being held in the Puvis de Chavannes and Sargent Galleries, and the alcove outside the Open Shelf Department on the Main Floor of the Central Library from October 2 through October 31.

The famous Fire Alarm Box 52 and other relics of the Great Boston Fire, which took place in 1872, may be seen in the exhibit case outside the Open Shelf Department. The two silver fire trumpets date back to 1872 and 1870. The former was given to the Boston Steam Fire Engine Company Tremont Company #13 by Rich and Stetson, proprietors of the Howard Athenaeum, in consideration of their noble service performed at the Great Boston Fire. The latter was given to the Northern Liberty Fire Engine Company by their North End friends. The silver torch, used by firemen in 1845, and the water bucket, used for fires in 1811, are also on display. Box 52 and the other relics were lent by Frederick W. Kurth, President of Box 52, the oldest "spark" organization in the country, active membership in which is limited to 104 members. They are drawn from all walks of life and are brought together by a common interest in fire fighting and fire prevention.

Books and rare pictures from the Rare Book, Fine Arts, and Science Technology Departments form part of the exhibit. Posters and pictures showing the causes of fire and fire prevention methods will be shown at Charlestown, Connolly, East Boston, Faneuil, Jeffries Point, Mattapan, Neponset, North End, Parker Hill, Phillips Brooks, South Boston, West End, and West Roxbury Branch Libraries. During the week the larger branch libraries will show an eleven-minute film entitled More Dangerous than Dynamite.

The posters and pamphlets were lent by Deputy Chief Edward N. Montgomery, in Charge of the Fire Prevention Division of the Boston Fire Department, and by the Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

The first alarm for the Boston fire, which started on Saturday night, November 9, 1872 and burned for three days, was sent from Box 52, located on the corner of Lincoln and Bedford Streets. The cause of the fire was a spark "blown out" of a furnace. The spark, which if noticed could have been put out with the tip of a finger, lodged itself behind a board nailed to the wall. The board, near an elevator shaft, caught fire and the flames spread rapidly up the wall to every floor. The fire had made great headway before its discovery. To add to the catastrophe of the fire, a general distemper had broken out among the horses of the fire department and many of the engines had to be propelled by manual labor.

The block in which the fire started was located at the corner of Summer and Kingston Streets. Included among the occupants of the block were a wholesale dairy products concern and several hoopskirt manufacturers. In the holocaust, well-built edifices covering sixty-five acres along street after street were burned at a loss of about $80 million.

On October 11 at 12 noon, the drill team of the Boston Fire Department staged its annual demonstration and drill in Copley Square in front of the Boston Public Library. Mr John J. Crehan, Deputy Chief and Drillmaster, Boston Fire Department, was in charge. Mr Michael T. Kelleher, Fire Commissioner, was the speaker.

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BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL

Announcement is made at this time concerning the establishment of the BERTHA V. HARTZELL LECTURES, a series of lectures on professional library subjects, to be given once a year under the auspices of the Professional Staff Association and administered directly by the Executive Board. The establishment of the Lectureship, as the final form of the Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial, follows as the result of the contributions and suggestions from interested members of the staff and former associates.

The money which has been contributed to the Memorial Fund will be used to defray expenses of one lecture each year until the Fund is exhausted. It is estimated that there will be sufficient money to carry this program through four or five years and it is the hope of the present Committee that means may be found at that time for the continuance of the lectures on a permanent basis.

The first BERTHA V. HARTZELL LECTURE

will be held during the early Spring of 1951, the speaker, subject and date to be announced.

The original Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Committee has been asked to serve as a Special Committee of the Association to bring into being and steer through the first year the initial lecture of the series. The Committee has been given to understand that there are individuals who have not as yet contributed to the Memorial Fund, but who had expressed a desire to do so when the final form of the Memorial was established. The contributions will be greatly appreciated now, and may be sent to MRS BERTHA KESWICK in the BRANCH ISSUE DEPARTMENT any time until October 23, 1950. Checks may be made payable to Mrs Keswick. Announcement will be made after that date as to the total sum comprising the Memorial Fund.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL.

Geraldine T. Beck, Chairman
Anne Coleman, Secretary
Bertha Keswick, Treasurer
Elinor Day
Charles Gillis
Evelyn Levy
Dorothy Shaw
Pauline A. Walker
Kathleen M. Woodworth

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BOOK PREPARATION DEPARTMENT

Once again the Book Preparation Department has expanded its quarters and has taken over the mezzanine floor above its present location. A wall has been broken through to Stack 3 Annex and books are delivered through this entrance.

Freshly painted walls, bright fluorescent lights, and newly covered tile flooring blend well with the linoleum covered tables. All book preparation activities for the Division of Reference and Research Services are being performed at this new location.

*

Over the long years the preparation of books for shelves has followed a pattern of pasting, lettering, and stylusing -- all by hand. Now the machine age has come to the Department. The library has purchased two electric motor-driven pasting machines, an electric motor-driven edging machine, and two double carriage typewriters with quarter inch type.

Previously when a book plate was hand-pasted, it was necessary to have the book kept open to dry for a considerable length of time before ink could be used for lettering on the book-plate. At a time when hundreds of books were pasted, space to spread these opened books presented a definite problem. Now when a paper book-plate is used, the classification number is typed on the book-plate whish is then put through the pasting machine, and placed in position on the inside cover of the book. Pockets and labels are put through the pasting machines and placed in position without rubbing or the danger of having the paste spread onto another part of the book.

When plastic covers are used over book jackets or wall paper covers, the edging machine is used to paste the edge of the jacket covers onto the inside of the book.

Hand lettering has been superseded by one-quarter inch letters. Instead of hand stylusing the complete shelf number of a non-fiction book on the spine, the class number plus the first letter of the Cutter number is typed on a small paper label and placed on the lower spine of the book jacket under the plastic covering.

These machines have proven that labor and material can be conserved, while at the same time the results present a more attractive uniformity than could be obtained by hand work.

Mary McDonough

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MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
1950 FALL MEETING
NEW OCEAN HOUSE, SWAMPSCOTT

The fall meeting of the MLA, which took place as scheduled on October 6 and 7, was extremely successful. Congratulations are due those who planned the program and carried out all the details of the meeting. We give here some writeups of the various sessions, which have been prepared by staff members.

Friday

Intercultural Action Through the Library

Chairman of this panel discussion was Miss Edna Phillips, Librarian of Morrill Memorial Library, Norwood, and Chairman, 1944-1950, of the A.L.A. Committee on Intercultural Action. Members of the panel were: Miss Alice O'Connor, Supervisor of Social Service in the Division of Immigration and Americanization of the Massachusetts Department of Education; Miss Elizabeth Hodges, Librarian, Leominster Public Library; Mr David K. Berninghausen, Librarian, Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York, and Chairman of the A.L.A. Committee on Intellectual Freedom; and Mrs Dorothy Homer, Librarian, 135th Street Branch, New York Public Library.

Miss O'Connor, whose work brings her into contact with displaced persons from Europe, said that many of these people are professionals and intellectuals who are not finding opportunities to practise their chosen professions in this country. In 90 cities and towns of this State there are no educational facilities for displaced persons who have settled there. Miss O'Connor believes that public libraries can help these people to adapt themselves to American culture by means of books, both in English and foreign languages, and other materials in the libraries. The libraries, she believes, should recognize the cultures of the many ethnic groups among the displaced people by, for example, exhibiting their arts, crafts, etc.

Miss Hodges had as the theme of her talk that every library is a center for intercultural action. She emphasized the importance of promoting the use of books in the intercultural field, which can acquaint readers with the problems here in America resulting from many groups of varied races and creeds living side by side. Miss Hodges urged librarians to make use of all library materials -- films, booklists and records -- to promote appreciation and understanding of the cultures of the foreign members of our respective communities.

Mr Berninghausen talked about intellectual freedom. He believed that in cases where minority groups believe their group to be attacked by books or magazine articles, these minority groups should not rely on their own methods of opposing the writings, such as banning books and articles, in order to defend the dignity of their particular group. Such methods, he claimed impair intellectual freedom and create more ill-feeling toward the minority group in question than the books and articles cited as attacking the group. Since artists portray life as they find it, Mr Berninghausen considers forbidding an artist to portray a minority group in a certain light as impairing the integrity of that artist's work.

Mrs Homer, the librarian of a branch library located in New York's Harlem district, advocated the use of booklists which show a minority group in a fair light. She stressed the importance of such books being put into the hands of children, but admitted that the home and environment of a child really forms his attitudes toward other races and creeds.

There was a brief period of questioning between the members of the panel, and a few questions were put to the panel from the audience.

Paul V. Moynihan

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, as was the report of the Treasurer.

The report of the Committee on the Revision of By-Laws was presented by Miss Gertrude Callahan. It was then unanimously voted that, inasmuch as the Standards Committee is no longer necessary, Section 4, Article IX, of the By-Laws be abolished and Section 11 of Article IX become Section 4.

A resolution requesting the establishment of a section of the Massachusetts Library Association to be known as the Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults was read. Under MLA By-Laws, members who are engaged in similar work may organize into a section by first petitioning the Executive Board. If the Board gives such a petition favorable consideration, it is then presented to the Association for action. Inasmuch as all requirements had been complied with, it was unanimously voted that this group be allowed to form as The Round Table of Librarians for Young

Adults as a Section of the Massachusetts Library Association.

Since the last meeting there has been further action on the resolution concerning libraries as part of community surveys made by non-library agents (See Resolution in MLA Bulletin, April 1950, p. 31). Mr Richard Sullivan reported on this. Two librarians who had had recent experience with survey groups had been asked to come to a meeting of the Executive Board -- Miss Edith Snow of Swampscott and Miss Christine Evarts of Weymouth. The feeling was that libraries and librarians are not getting a very good deal from survey groups and that something should be done about it. Boards of Trustees are being overlooked and librarians are being classified with all sorts of people, including bath house attendants. By vote of the Executive Board a committee, consisting of Miss Louise B. Day, President, Miss Catherine M. Yerxa, Vice President, Mr Richard Sullivan, Mrs Genevieve Galick, and Mr Stacy Southworth had met with Mr Charles Evans of Griffenhagen Associates, a survey-making organization. The committee felt that the meeting was worthwhile. Mr Evans was told about MLA, ALA, and what librarians are trying to do. Stress was put on standing of boards of trustees. As a result of the meeting, letters have been presented to Mr Evans -- one from Miss Day as President of MLA, concerning the services of the Association for the purposes of consultation, and one from Mr Southworth offering the services, files, and all material on hand in the Division of Public Libraries.

Miss Day added that if surveys of libraries are going to be made in our state, it is most important that those who make the surveys realize that libraries do have professional standards. She pointed out that while larger libraries may have weight enough to carry themselves along, smaller libraries should be helped by having the state association back of them. It had been made clear to Mr Evans that libraries are not against surveys nor do they feel that libraries are perfect, but they believe that when patterns are cut by which surveys of libraries are made, patterns should be cut that make sense with library programs. She asked that librarians keep the Association informed on the survey situation throughout the state.

After the question of continued sponsorship by the Association of the Conference on State Aid for Libraries in Massachusetts had been discussed at some length, it was unanimously voted that the Massachusetts Library Association should continue as one of the sponsors.

Thanks were extended to Mr Ralph Nason for his splendid work as Editor of the MLA Bulletin. The new Editor was announced to be Miss Alice Cahill of the Division of Public Libraries, with Miss Charlotte Bausman acting as Chairman of the Publications Committee. Coverage proposed for four issues in 1951 was outlined.

Miss Ruth Porritt, for the Committee on Intellectual Freedom, presented for adoption by the Association the resolution on intellectual freedom adopted by the American Library Association in Cleveland in July. The vote for adoption was unanimous.

Mrs Muriel Javelin extended an invitation to MLA members to attend the Third Annual Institute on Human Relations, sponsored by the Boston Public Library and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, to be held at the Boston Public Library on Saturday, October 28.

Mr Robert H. Sillon extended an invitation to catalogers and classifiers to attend the meeting of the Regional Group which is to be held at the Brookline Public Library on Saturday, October 21.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Sarah M. Usher

What's Happening in World Affairs?

According to Mr Henry C. Wolfe, foreign affairs expert, correspondent, lecturer, and author, neither the people of the world nor their rulers understand fully what is happening to the social, political, and economic status of the world. No one knows what Stalin's next move will be, nor, for that matter, do we know what President Truman and Congress will decide to do the next time an international crisis occurs. Possibly Stalin thought that the United States and the United Nations had double-crossed him when they went into Korea. Our intervention became inevitable because of public opinion. We are living in a dangerous but interesting age when the morale and spirit of our people are more important to our survival than either our armaments or our industrial potential. We learn from history that no great nation was ever permanently destroyed by great

armies from without, but by weakness from within. The American way of life will survive in spite of the atomic bomb because the spirit of our people is sound. Mr Wolfe reached this conclusion from talking with our soldiers in World War II and in the recent Korean conflict. Even though the average soldier knows nothing about power politics, his love for his country is so overwhelming that he is willing to give his life to preserve our American democratic institutions.

Mr Wolfe stated that for thirty-three years he has been making almost yearly trips to Europe to study political and social conditions. Two of the countries to which he has returned many times are Germany and Jugoslavia, his latest visit being that of last spring. Because of the tension between Tito and Stalin, Jugoslavia is one of the "hotspots" of the world. The people of the United States who know very little of the background of this tension will be called upon to make some very important decisions regarding Jugoslavia in the next few months.

The only country in the Balkans with a strong army is Jugoslavia, where it has been built up over the years by Tito and his loyal officers. The root of the trouble between Tito and Stalin stems from the fact that Tito would not permit Jugoslavia to become another Russian satellite state. Tito maintains that the only true communism is now being practiced in Jugoslavia and that Russia has become an imperialistic state. When Tito discovered that Russia expected Jugoslavia to supply her with food and raw materials at a very low price, and that Russia would pay for these with machines and equipment at a very high price, Tito called off the deal. Like any good businessman Tito prefers to buy cheaply and to sell to the highest bidder. Therefore he turned to the western democracies for aid, and closed the Jugoslavian frontiers to the Russians. This policy has operated to our advantage in stopping the Greek Civil War, for the supplies and armaments poured into Greece by the United States and Great Britain were of no avail as long as communists from Jugoslavia could cross the border at night and reinforce the Greek communists. Since Tito closed the borders the civil war in Greece has been practically over. The drought of the past summer in Jugoslavia ruined the country's food supply, so the United States will have to decide whether we are to feed the people or allow them to die from starvation.

The old bogy "balance of power" is again becoming respectable, for it is quite generally believed that only by building up alliances against Soviet Russia can western Europe and the United States avoid World War III. The best buffer state is Jugoslavia for she has a well trained army of 500,000 men. The communists are only 3% of the population but they are able to continue in power because the majority of the people respect Tito and consider him a real patriot. It is true that by supporting Jugoslavia we are taking a calculated risk since Tito is an avowed communist and an enemy of our form of government. But the alternative to this is to allow Stalin to crush Tito and get control of the Mediterranean and the Adriatic Seas. Congress, the President, and the American people have a grave decision to make, but the question should be handled realistically.

The other dilemma facing us is the rearming of Germany. Do we again want a militaristic Germany to threaten the peace of Europe? Will a rearmed Germany work with the western powers to maintain peace and to defend Germany against Soviet Russia? Here, again, no one really knows the correct answer, and Congress and the American people must realize that this is another calculated risk. One thing however has changed in Germany, and that is the apparent lack of interest of the young Germans in serving in the army. This may be due to the tremendous fear of Soviet Russia which exists in western Germany. The general opinion in western Europe seems to be that only fear of the atomic bomb prevents Russia from marching into western Europe. The answer seems to be that we must build a "situation of strength" in western Europe.

"I wish I could tell you that everything will be all right, but this would be deceiving. We are in for a long pull." Maybe two generations will be required to settle the question definitely. Whether we win or lose will depend upon who are the best chess players. The most hopeful sign is Tito's idea that the conflicting policies within Russia will destroy her. The great need is for a strong spiritual awakening which will engender the moral

forces necessary to combat communism. Only through great sacrifices and strong world leadership of the United States can the western democracies survive. All the world is looking to us for leadership. We must not fail them.

Theodora B. Scoff

Saturday

Good Reading -- Can It Be Stimulated?

Mrs Mildred Van Deusen Mathews, Supervisor, Adult Services, New York Public Library, began by quoting Lowell Martin's concepts of public library service covering three periods in the history of public library development in this country: (1) The Period of Source of Supply -- purchasing, cataloging, placing needed materials on the shelves for the public; (2) Period of reading guidance which began in the 1920's, and (3) The Stimulation Period.

Under the heading of general or indirect guidance, she considered organization and arrangement of collections by subject matter; the value of exhibits and displays, both in the library and in other places throughout the community; and book selection as a fundamental way of stimulating and guiding people. She emphasized the need for setting standards of book selection.

Mrs Mathews discussed direct guidance through floor work and readers' advisory services, warning of the dangers of becoming too involved in administrative details, and called attention to the value of allowing oneself time for personal reading. As an example of an invaluable aid in readers' advisory work in the New York Public Library, she told of the development of a classified, annotated card file of books -- classified in the way the public asks for books, rather than in strict catalog arrangement.

The value of book lists, short and long, was brought out; not only book lists prepared by the library but those available from such organizations as the Foreign Policy Association, the League of Women Voters, etc.

In discussing the value of book talks by staff members, she gave examples of undertakings in New York, including "Noon Hour Book Talks" and a weekly radio broadcast called "Dark Horses". She urged librarians to go out after invitations to give book talks if such invitations do not come to them.

Under the value of library-sponsored groups to promote good reading, Mrs Mathews discussed the so-called Book Centered Groups (Books Reviewers, Great Books Groups, Exploring the American Idea Group); Idea-Centered Groups (Current Events Groups); and Film-Centered Groups (for discussion of films).

Services given to community groups, such as "Live Longer and Like It" groups, trade-unions, city institutions, business groups, parents groups, etc., were cited as a means of bringing the library and the community closer together.

In closing her very profitable talk, Mrs Mathews left with the group some thoughts expressed by Carl Milam: The public library must concentrate on persons who have some purpose in their reading; must be aware of the important social, economic, and political problems; and much not tell people what to think, but help them decide what to think about.

Pauline Winnick

If Not The People's University--Then What?

The panel discussion was under the leadership of Miss Miriam Putnam, Librarian, Memorial Library, Andover, and Chairman, Adult Education Section, ALA Division of Public Libraries. The panel members were Miss Sigrid Edge, Simmons College, Mrs Mildred Mathews, New York Public Library, Mr Wayne Shirley, Pratt Institute, and Mr Thurston Taylor, Worcester Public Library. Three questions were tossed back and forth in lively fashion: Just what is Library Adult Education? What activities of libraries can be called adult education? What should the book selection policy of libraries be in regard to best sellers, controversial books, trivial books, etc.? While the audience was still in a state of mental debate over one question and its ramifications, the panel, under the skillful guidance and excellent timing of Miss Putnam, would have passed on to another. The result was most provacative. The last fifteen minutes were spent in a "buzz session", in which the whole audience

participated, considering four questions put to them by Miss Sigrid Edge: 1. Should the Library buy light fiction? 2. Should the Library buy controversial books? 3. Should the Library be the leader or the follower in the community? 4. Should the Library buy new books immediately on publication?

Evelyn Levy

HEWINS LECTURE

Mrs Jennie E. Lindquist, Managing Editor of the HORN BOOK, gave the third Hewins Lecture, Caroline M. Hewins and Books for Children. Her presentation was clear and delightful. She made Caroline Hewins vividly alive to her audience.

Inasmuch as the Hewins Lectures are printed in full in the HORN BOOK, and are later published in book form, no summary of this particular one is given here.

*

Members of the staff of the Boston Public Library will be particularly interested in the announcement that Mr Louis Felix Ranlett, Librarian, Bangor Public Library, will give the Hewins Lecture in 1951, on the subject The Youth's Companion. Mr Ranlett is pleasantly remembered here as former Chief of the Book Selection Department.

***

Members of the Association were privileged to have the opportunity of meeting the four librarians from Germany who had been introduced at the opening of the morning session by Mr Milton E. Lord. He told briefly of their six months' visit in this country.

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THE PASSING OF LIGGETT'S

One of our bleaker September days this year was marked by a line of sad-visaged people crossing and re-crossing Blagden Street. All staggered slightly under double burdens of sorrow and strangely-shaped bundles. Those of us who had frequented Liggett's these many years were going to bid a last farewell to old friends -- and if the bids were for the lowest price on an electric toaster or a bent tube of shaving-cream, think not the less of us. It is a sign of the inarticulateness of our generation to conceal emotion under banter.

Having spent a bemused and befuddled year in a class on the Library as a Social Institution, I feel qualified to say that our Liggett's must be considered as such. It was a retreat and a meeting-place like the side-walk cafes of Paris. If you sat on a stool there long enough, not only did your leg fall asleep, but you met everyone on the staff. I particularly enjoyed the invigorating exercise of firmly grasping the counter and with a supple movement of the hip working my way from one seat to another, up and down the counter, to keep abreast of the population -- shifts which all institutions eventually face.

On most occasions every face at the lunch counter was a familiar one, and I must confess that a childish resentment was likely to be my reaction to a stranger occupying a stool where I had squatter's rights.

Marie, Mary, Kay, and Margaret, Doris and her sister Mary, and Mr Ames, were old and tried friends to all of us. Never again will we have our morning coffee in such a pleasant, congenial atmosphere where your personal taste in shaving-cream, cigarettes, coffee-half, and no-mayonnaise were recognized and cheerfully remembered, and where we were friends first and customers second.

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BRANCH NOTES

Charlestown

On November 13 to 20, the Young People's Room will feature a display of the work of Kate Greenaway. An exhibit has been borrowed which includes not only those books in which her illustrations appear but also a collection of picture cards which Miss Greenaway illustrated for book marks and to advertise many products of her day. Of particular interest is the Birthday Book, which includes an illustrated verse for each day of the year. The illustrations are done in black and white line work, and each tiny figure represents the verse by which it stands. Miss Greenaway's work is

a startling contrast to our modern illustrators in the delicacy of its colors and the quaint charm which the figures reflect.

Mattapan

In observance of Jewish Book Month, Rabbi Routtenberg will be the principal speaker on November 30 at 8:30 p.m. His subject will be "Highlights of the literary output in the Field of Judaica in the Year". All are cordially invited to attend.

Parker Hill

The children's story hour will begin again every Thursday afternoon with Mr and Mrs Cronan presiding. Both the storytellers and the children are looking forward to this weekly event.

*

The showing of movies has already started both for the adults and the children on Monday afternoon and evening twice a month.

Phillips Brooks

Friends of the Phillips Brooks Branch Library have planned a busy season for 1950-51. Beginning with a program on October 19, when Miss Edna G. Peck will review the new "fall favorites," they have a meeting scheduled for the third Thursday of each month. A program committee and a membership committee have been appointed to enlarge the membership of the group and to carry on the program.

*

A community gathering of over 80 parents and children concluded the summer reading club's season on Thursday evening, September 7. After summer reading certificates were awarded to 57 boys and girls, the young people provided the entertainment for the evening. Highlight of the program was the presentation of an original puppet play, "Pinocchio Finds Out about Books," under the direction of Miss Gracemarie V. Alfe and Miss F. Laurelle West. The cast of twelve favorite book character puppets, made by the children during the summer, included such favorites as Mary Poppins, Stormalong and Paul Bunyan (two rivals who engaged in a tug-of-war), Homer Price and Mother Goose.

West End

On Friday afternoon, September 15, sixteen children, all members of the Summer Reading Club, visited the Longfellow House in Cambridge under the leadership of Miss Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, Miss Elinor Day, Children's Librarian, and Miss Helen E. Colgan, Assistant. Mr Thomas de Valcourt of Longfellow House received the group and gave a delightful talk on the history of the house and the circumstances surrounding the writing of many of Longfellow's poems. The children were especially interested in his account of the writing of THE CHILDREN'S HOUR, of Washington's stay at the house during the Revolution, and of the chair made from the wood of the famous chestnut tree mentioned in THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH. The group was then conducted through the downstairs rooms and out into the garden, which is still kept much as it was in Longfellow's day. Mr de Valcourt proved to be an ideal host, most cordial and sympathetic with the children, and anxious to answer their many questions. He also expressed his interest in the children themselves when they were introduced to him by name, noting various nationalities represented: French, Italian, Jewish, Irish, German, Polish, Scotch, English and Russian. The afternoon was both pleasant and profitable for all concerned, and, coupled with the program of the next day, was a fitting finale for the Summer's activities.

*

On Saturday morning, September 16, a party was given in honor of the twenty-three children who had successfully completed the Summer Reading Club requirements. As special guest for the occasion, Miss Laurel Bethe, well-known storyteller and radio speaker, charmed the children with her unusually spirited interpretations of RUMPELSTILTSKIN and JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS. Miss Goldstein and Miss Day addressed the group briefly and awarded the certificates and book prizes for the four who had read the greatest number of books during the Summer. Ice cream and cookies were served, and the long-awaited party was over for another year.

*

On Friday, September 22, Miss Fanny

Goldstein, Branch Librarian, left on a three-week vacation to Florida and the West Indies. Her Staff presented her with an assortment of sweets to help while away the long train journey. On her way to Florida, she stopped for a week-end visit at Columbia, S. C. with Mr and Mrs Dial Corder. Mrs Corder used to work at the West End Branch Library.

*

During the first two weeks in October there is being exhibited 23 costumed bisque and china dolls, which were collected and dressed by a patron, Miss Christine Woollett, 125 Charles Street. Many of the dolls are over a hundred years old, and have great historic value. This exhibit, supplemented by pictures, books, and posters on the subject, has proved a source of delight for both children and grown-ups.

*

October 17 ushers in United Nations Week, and there will be featured an exhibit on this theme the last two weeks in October. The exhibit will include many pamphlets put out by the United Nations, portraits of leading personalities, and material on the history and achievement of this important organization. Much of the material has been assembled and lent through the courtesy of the United Council on World Affairs.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Williams, Ben Ames
Owen Glen.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1950

Non-fiction

Burnett, Whit, ed.
105 greatest living authors present the world's best stories, humor, drama, biography, history, essays, poetry.
New York, Dial Press, 1950

Douglas, Mary T.
The teacher-librarian's handbook. 2nd ed.
Chicago, A.L.A., 1949

Kelly, Amy R.
Eleanor of Acquitaine and the four kings.
Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1950

Morris, Lloyd R.
Not so long ago.
New York, Random House, 1949

Rufsvold, Margaret I.
Audio-visual school library service
Chicago, A.L.A., 1949

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SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

Dear Editor:

Can someone tell me why, when a person is absent on vacation for one week, there is a loss of six full days' pay -- four days absence reported on the first time report and two on the next. We are paid on a five day basis and therefore, for a week's absence, should lose only five full days' pay. I lost six full days' pay for being absent one week -- someone's crediting me with a weekly salary of about $41.42, instead of my actual salary of $34.52.

??????????

*

To the Soap Box:

Sometime in the later part of August, I gave Personnel Office, a copy of Chapter 809 - Acts of 1950, which had been passed and became a law.

I requested that this law be posted on the bulletin board as it was a very vital change in the pension rules which affects every member of the staff. To date it has not been posted.

Abraham Snyder

*

Ode to a General Reference Assistant who not only recommended a book, but even went so far as to get it off the shelf and deliver it in person.

LINES TO BE RECITED THROUGH CLENCHED TEETH

1.

Dear Ref'rence Assistant,
I feel a bit sick.
I just read "The Cadaver of Gideon Wyck",
Though it gave me a thrill (not to mention a chill)
Oh, unfortunately, it's a mystery still,
And, alas!, my suspense must go on and go on ----
When I got to the end the last chapter was gone!

Chorus:

Oh, Miscreant, say, if you're reading this verse
Could you think of a torture that would have been worse?
For I'd sooner have fingernails ripped from my hands,
Or I'd live with my arms locked in wrought-iron bands,
Or I'd smile while my heart was cut out by a friend
Than continue through life without knowing the end.

2.

I plowed through the pages (three hundred or more)
And when I reached the last one, I let out a roar
For I don't know whodunit, nor yet how or why,
(Heck, I don't even know who the darn thing was by).
So, find me a copy that's whole and complete
And the names that I've called you I'll never repeat.

Sheila Pierce

****

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

A sign in front of a vase containing beautiful pink roses in the staff library reads:

"A gift to members of the staff in appreciation of the hospitality accorded to them by the four visiting librarians from the Information Centers maintained by the U. S. Department of State in Germany".

The B.P.L.P.S.A.

Invites you and your friends

to hear a talk by

Father Carol L. Bernhardt, S.J.

entitled

The Philosophy of Laughter

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 27, 1950 AT 8 P.M.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY LECTURE HALL

Refreshments

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Geraldine S. Herrick, Chairman

Mrs. Dorothy M. Lovett Mrs. Beryl Y. Robinson

Louis Rains Gladys R. White

Please Post

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume V, Number 11 November 1950

Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, M. Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

Perhaps there could be no more appropriate season of the year for commenting favorably on certain developments affecting staff members than the month in which Thanksgiving occurs. We have three items which seem to us to be worthy of commendation.

First: Attendance at staff meetings irrespective of classification by position. To bring staff members together as individuals interested in learning about the Library's policies and developments, regardless of the labels designating positions into which Fate happened to place them at the particular time, is good for morale. Absences from departments can be more easily arranged when three instead of four days' schedules are disturbed. The series of meetings revealed that the expectation that assistants might feel inhibited if chiefs were present was not entirely substantiated.

Second: Exhibits. The program recently inaugurated is proving to be very successful. The cases in the front hall of the Central Library Building are appropriately handsome, and the exhibits placed in them have been, in their planning and assembling, such as to reflect credit upon the institution. We recommend to your continuing attention developments in the expanding program for exhibits both in Central Library and in Branch Libraries.

Third: The revised scheduling of examinations. To be allowed to take qualifying examinations at the completion of courses given in preparation for them is obviously to the advantage of those taking the examinations. To finish a course in December and not to take the examination in the subject until June meant that much could be forgotten in the interim, and, unless considerable reviewing was done, grades were apt to suffer. Particularly was this true if the subject matter of the course was completely foreign to one's daily work.

PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Mrs Phyllis L. Barclay, Uphams Corner Branch Library. (Mrs Barclay was formerly Children's Librarian at Brighton Branch Library).

Miss Bernadette Russell, Roslindale Branch Library. (Miss Russell formerly worked part-time at Charlestown Branch Library).

Mr Euclid J. Peltier, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, to do film work.

Mrs Augusta G. Rubenstein, Book Selection Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services. (Mrs Rubenstein formerly worked part-time at the Mattapan Branch Library).

Mr George Adelman, General Reference Department.

Mr Maurice I. Rahilly, Periodical and Newspaper Department. (Mr Rahilly formerly worked part-time in the General Reference Department).

Marriages

Miss Isabella G. Pennampede, Information Office, to Mr Paul Windham, October 18, 1950.

Miss Joyce P. Silhavy, Roslindale Branch Library, to Mr A. Harlow Ellis, October 12, 1950.

Miss Helen M. Mitchell, East Boston Branch Library, to Mr Frederick W. Popp, October 21, 1950.

Transferred

Miss Beatrice G. Wade, from Phillips Brooks Branch Library to Book Selection Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

Mrs Anna L. Shanor, from South End Branch Library to Phillips Brooks Branch Library.

Resignations

Miss Alberta M. Renzaglia, Kirstein Business Branch, to continue studies.

Mrs Elaine E. Kimmelman, Rare Book Department.

Mr Thomas H. O'Connor, Statistical Department, to teach at Boston College.

Engagements

Miss Helen Maguire, Book Stack Service, to Mr William Carley of Allston. The wedding is planned for June.

Miss Mary Louise Leydon, Book Stack Service, to Mr Theodore Gregory Flanagan of Cambridge. Mr Flanagan is a student at Tufts College.

Births

A daughter, Kristine, to Mr and Mrs Francis Milillo, Tuesday, October 17. Frank is a member of the Book Stack Service.

A daughter to Mr and Mrs William DiRosario on November 8. Bill is a member of the Fine Arts Department.

A daughter, Ellen Ruth, to Mr and Mrs Robert Smart. Mr Smart is a member of the Kirstein Business Branch.

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SHOWERS AND WEDDINGS

On Saturday evening, October 21, Miss Mary Groden, Book Stack Service, was given a surprise bridal shower at the home of Miss Doris Cornelius, Codman Square Branch Library. Many of her library friends were among the guests. Mary received many lovely gifts.

*

On Saturday, October 28, at 10 A. M., Miss Mary Groden, Book Stack Service, became the bride of Mr Anthony Quercia at St. Augustine's Church, South Boston. Miss Groden wore traditional white satin and carried a prayer book covered with white orchids. She was attended by Miss Doris Cornelius, Miss Patricia McCarthy, Book Stack Service, and Miss Julia Quercia, sister of the groom. A reception followed at the Knights of Columbus Hall, South Boston. Mr and Mrs Quercia spent their honeymoon in the White Mountains.

*

Miss Isabella G. Pennampede, Information Office, became the bride of Mr Paul M. Windham at St. James Church in Arlington Heights on Wednesday, October 18, 1950, at 7:30 p.m. The bride was lovely in a white velvet gown trimmed at the neckline and sleeves with seed pearls and rhinestones. The head-piece was of seed pearls and rhinestones and was attached to five yards of fine veiling. She wore lace mitts with tiny velvet bows at the wrist. Her bouquet was made up of exquisite white roses with satin streamers and two large white orchids in the center - later used as her going away corsage. The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mr Fabio Pennampede. The Reverend Father Shea performed the ceremony. A soloist from the parish sang Ave Maria before the ceremony and Mother at Your Feet I am Kneeling after the ceremony.

The maid of honor, Miss Mary Pennampede, sister of the bride, wore a beautiful gown of American beauty which made her look as if she had just stepped out of a Strauss waltz. She carried a bouquet of talisman roses with streamers of assorted ribbon.

Mrs Ella Pepi, cousin of the bride, as matron of honor, wore a dusty rose velvet gown with a sweetheart neckline and removable cape. She carried a bouquet of mixed flowers with streamers of assorted color ribbon. The three bridesmaids, wearing blue velvet gowns of the same style, were: Mrs Katherine Xenos of Arlington, Miss Alice Cataldo of Milton, formerly of the Book Stack Service, and Miss Helen Savakian of Mattapan, a member of the staff of the Information Office. The bouquets were of mixed flowers with red and pink roses predominating. The streamers were of rainbow ribbon.

The best man was Mr Maurice Rahilly of Jamaica Plain, a member of the staff of the Periodical Room. The ushers were: Mr William Pepi, Mr Daniel Xenos, Mr Edward Pearle, and Mr Aram Savakian. The ring bearers were Johnny and Jerry Pepi, twin sons of Mr and Mrs William Pepi.

A bouffet supper was held in the Sapphire Room of the Hotel Gardner. Many of "Issy's" friends fron the Library attended. Former members of the Information Office present included: Mrs Irene Bixler Lyons, Miss Catherine Flannery, Miss

Patricia Keegan, Mrs Arthur Elliott, and Miss Ruth Michelson.

After a trip to Philadelphia, the bride returned to the Information Office for a while before joining her husband in Virginia.

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WE WELCOME BACK AFTER ILLNESSES

Miss Elizabeth B. Boudreau, Information Office.

Mrs Marjorie G. Bouquet, Office of Chief Librarian, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Mrs Barbara Cotter, Office of Supervisor of Reference and Research Services.

Miss Jane F. Hasson, Buildings Department.

Miss Christine Hayes, Book Selection Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Miss Patricia Wilson, "Miss Voltage of '51", Allston Branch Library.

Miss Jean B. Lay, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

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BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY to

Miss Marion K. Abbot, Charlestown Branch Library.

Miss Mildred R. Adelson, Jamaica Plain Branch Library.

Miss M. Thérèse Campbell, Mrs Catherine Macauley, and Mrs Pauline Puglisi, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Miss Barbara Gilson, History Department.

Mr William B. Gallagher, Printing Department.

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RECENT VISITORS

Mr A. L. G. McDonald, Librarian of the Australian National University, Canberra.

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IN MEMORIAM

EMMA F. LYNCH

After a brief illness, and in her eightieth year, Miss Emma F. Lynch set out on her greatest adventure. The last of her family, she passed away on October 15.

Her whole life in the library was spent in the South End Branch, which, when she entered the service in November 1885, was in the basement of the "new" English High School. In those classless days she was a general library worker. She later became second assistant and presided at the Registration Desk, where the records and files she kept were a great source of satisfaction and pride to her.

Tiny, with snow-white hair, and every inch a lady, she was extremely honest and forthright, with very strong opinions on the questions of the day. Her charity was great and most unostentatious, known usually only to her and the recipient.

After fifty-three years of active service, Miss Lynch was retired in 1938. Her last years were far from carefree, but she never lost her keen interest in people and trends. Vacations and motoring were her greatest joys until the very end. In fact, shortly before she died she hoped that her little set-back would not interfere with plans for a projected trip through the Berkshires.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

EDITH GUERRIER HONORED

Little could Edith Guerrier have dreamed way back in 1899, when the first story hour was held in the North End, that on Saturday evening, October 28, 1950, over one hundred of the girls who were to enjoy story hours during the early years of the century would gather in honor of her 80th birthday. But such was the case. One came by plane from Oregon, others from New York, Vermont, New Bedford, and many from Boston and suburbs; but from wherever they came, their purpose was the same. They were honoring a branch librarian who

had given to them infinitely more than a superficial acquaintance with books. She had given them an appreciation not only of good literature but of good living; of good fellowship; of good sportsmanship; and, above all, of the value of loyalty and friendship. She had taught them to "learn to agree to disagree".

The dinner, held in the ballroom of the Hotel Beaconsfield, was in reality a triple celebration -- a celebration of the 80th birthday of Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, which had taken place on September 20; the 51st anniversary of story hour's beginning in 1899; and a get-together of the "Saturday Evening Girls".

Membership in the early clubs under Miss Guerrier's leadership in the North End was according to grades in school. The high school group met on Saturday evenings. Story hours, dramatics, weeks in summer camp, handicraft work -- these were some of the activities they shared. As the years have passed, it has been inevitable that marriage and careers should separate the S.E.G's, but the club has never been dissolved. Its members have held periodic reunions over the years, though none as significant as this coming together to honor their founder and friend on her 80th birthday.

The program of the evening was informal, in keeping with the friendly atmosphere. There were tributes to the guest of honor -- in poetry, prose, and song. She was presented with a birthday cake with 80 lighted candles (all of which she blew out!) and a beautifully bound volume of letters and greetings from the girls. Announcement was also made of presentation in her honor of a substantial addition to the EDITH GUERRIER FUND at the Boston Public Library as a special 80th birthday gift from the Saturday Evening Girls. Miss Guerrier graciously accepted the gifts, and the program ended with the singing of the S.E.G. Camp Song, which she had written.

The evening was successful from every point of view, but one tribute stood out as the greatest of all -- the presence of over one hundred persons who gratefully remembered.

S. M. U.

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ALICE M. JORDAN HONORED

Greetings and good wishes were extended to Miss Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus, at a coffee party given by the children's librarians directly after their regular meeting on Wednesday, November 8, in the Women's Lounge.

The occasion was the eightieth birthday of Miss Jordan, whose customary gracious alertness and lively interest in all library affairs strongly belie her years. Various officers and former associates dropped in to offer congratulations, and to admire the decorative and lovely birthday cake and flowers presented to Miss Jordan.

*

MISS WILLIS ENTERTAINS

Food, food, food was the order of the day -- October 14 -- when Miss Rebecca E. Willis, Branch Librarian Emeritus, Jamaica Plain Branch Library, invited her former staff to lunch at the Smorgasbord. Besides eating some of every delicious dish around the huge table, there was time for lots of talking about the good old and new days. Miss Willis is actively enjoying a busy retirement.

*

SPORT SCRIBBLES

In the Sunday edition of the NEW BEDFORD STANDARD-TIMES there is appearing a new feature -- Sport Scribbles, cartoons by Brooks Kelly. Brooks is the fifteen-year old son of Mrs Rhoda Kelly, a former member of the staff of the Office of Supervisor of Branch Libraries.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The fall season finds the Executive Board busy with "a number of things". Following the acceptance of the report of the Nominating Committee it was necessary to appoint an Elections Committee. Miss Mary Cahill, Book Purchasing Department has accepted the chairmanship of this committee. The support of every member of

the Association is essential if this election is to be the true reflection of the wishes of the membership. According to the by-laws of the Association, the report of the Nominating Committee shall be announced at the November meeting. In this connection please note carefully sections (c) and (d) of Article III, Section I:

(c) Nominations from the floor of candidates who are present and accept the nomination shall be entertained at the November meeting.

(d) Any member of the Association may nominate a candidate for office by submitting a letter of nomination and a seconding letter from a member of the Association, and a letter of acceptance from the nominee to the Secretary of the Association.

The November business meeting of the Association will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library on Friday morning, November 17, at 9 o'clock. It is a recognized fact that business meetings are not dramatic, spectacular events. They are the chores of any Association. Even so, they are essential and they are ineffectual unless properly supported. The business meetings are your meetings. There you have an opportunity to hear and evaluate what your Association is doing. You have an opportunity to express your opinions on these achievements -- or lack of them. You also have an opportunity to offer suggestions for future activities which might be beneficial to the staff as a whole. However, if you are not at the meeting it is rather difficult to get your ideas across. The last business meeting was exceptionally well attended. It is hoped that everyone who can be spared from his post of duty will plan to attend on the seventeenth. Since these meetings are held on library time, it is suggested that everyone arrive on time, say what is to be said briefly, and leave with dispatch once the meeting is over. Let promptness, speed, and efficiency characterize this fall business meeting.

*

The Executive Board in session on October 17 appointed a special committee to report periodically to the staff on matters relative to the pension system now affecting Boston Public Library employees. The need for such a committee was emphasized at the recent staff meetings. Although not appointed prior to the staff meetings, this committee has a vital role to play in the months ahead. The committee is as follows:

Miss Elizabeth G. Barry, Statistical Department

Mr Albert L. Carpenter, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services

Miss Catherine M. MacDonald, Personnel Office

Mr Louis Polishook, Chairman, Science and Technology Department, (Patent Room)

You need not be reminded that this committee, as every other committee, needs your support. People working on committees are not doing it for the fun of it; they are doing it in order that your Association may be more effective in your behalf. All they ask is your support.

*

The Executive Board at the same meeting, authorized the chairman of the Program Committee to invite a limited number of foreign students to our social activities, should it seem advisable. It was thought that the many foreign students living in and around Boston might appreciate a glimpse of the library worker with his "hair down" so to speak. Most people assume that library workers do nothing but read books all day and far into the night. This erroneous concept needs to be dispelled -- and where better can we begin than among the embassadors of goodwill who are here for study from England, France, Scandinavia, Germany and other countries? It is at least worth a try.

*

The Executive Board at the same session also authorized the expenditure of a sum of money not to exceed ten dollars, for floral tributes upon the death of active members of the Association.

*

A Happy Thanksgiving! We hope the candy you will take to your hostess was purchased through "Ye Greene Sweete Shoppe".

****

THE COFFEE SHOP

This week marks the opening of the long-awaited COFFEE SHOP in sparkling new quarters in the Central Library building. Jonquil yellow walls, with dark green trim, and bright red and beige counter, chairs, tables, and stools give the room a pleasant and inviting atmosphere. To all the members of the Buildings Department (Carpenters, Custodians, Electricians, Painters) whose hard work and capable hands helped to bring the physical needs to reality, the Concession Committee expresses enthusiastic appreciation. To the Administration, which by its initial approval and by its continuing sympathetic interest, has encouraged this undertaking, the Committee likewise extends its sincere thanks.

THE CONCESSION COMMITTEE

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF LAUGHTER

On Friday evening, October 27, about seventy-five members of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association and friends gathered in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library to hear Reverend Carol L. Bernhardt, S.J. The serious development of Father Bernhardt's subject -- THE PHILOSOPHY OF LAUGHTER -- was frequently interspersed with amusing anecdotes and touches of his own keen wit. A pleasant evening was brought to a close following a get-together and refreshments in the Young People's Room.

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CATHOLIC BOOK WEEK COMMITTEE MEETS

The first meeting of the committee planning Catholic Book Week for 1951 was held at Creagh Library, St. John's Seminary on November 9. The Boston Public Library is represented on the committee by Miss Anne E. Armstrong, Mr John J. Connolly, Miss Catherine E. Flannery, Miss Mary Louise Gilman, Mrs Mary K. Harris, Miss Anna L. Manning, and Mr Thomas J. Manning.

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BASEBALL ECHOES

Shortly after the baseball season closed in 1950 the BOSTON AMERICAN ran a contest on What to do with the Red Sox and Ted Williams. Ten dollars was awarded to each person who presented a solution judged worthy of publication. Our congratulations go to Mr Paul W. Smith, Business Office, who received a check for ten dollars for the following:

Psychiatrist Needed

51 Armindine St.,
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Sir:

To analyze correctly what ails the Red Sox, it would be necessary to recruit the services of a psychiatrist, a hypnotist, several mind readers and a fortune teller. A team finishes the season with a club batting average of .304, and the fans yell: "Trade Williams," or "Sell Stephens" or "Shoot Tebbetts."

It is entirely possible that the Red Sox could play better baseball without the services of Williams who, in the past few years, has shown a decided tendency to fall flat on his face when the big moments arrive. But why the fans should want to trade ball players of the caliber of Stephens and Tebbetts, is beyond this mind.

When the Yankees came to town in early September and it was imperative for the Red Sox to sweep two games, it was Stephens who came through with six hits in nine trips. He hit three singles, a double, a triple and a home run. He was all over the field, making fine plays and proving that he can hit in September.

Tebbetts also is a smart, able competitor who always goes all out to win. But with the fans looking for goats to blame for the Red Sox flop, Stephens and Tebbetts were singled out for some unexplained reason.

To trade Williams might be a good idea but one thing must be done at all costs -- get some pitchers. The morale of any team suffers when it has no one to depend upon to pitch the big ones. From this corner, a couple of good pitchers could solve the age-old problem: "What's wrong with the Red Sox?"

PAUL W. SMITH.

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INVITATION TO LEARNING IN THE B.P.L.

Fine Arts Department

You need not be a high-brow to have eyes
That see intensely and have joy in seeing.
For your delight within these volumes lies
What eyes have seen and hands brought into being,
Obedient to the vision, throughout time
In clay or marble, with a brush or pencil.
Look, all these lovely records, from sublime
Cathedral vaults to needle-point or stencil,
From Grecian urns to sun-flowers of Van Gogh
Or to Picasso's dream-initiation,
In classic style, baroque, or modern vogue,
Are yours for tranquil hours of contemplation.
Or better still: let them within your breast
Kindle the flame of a creator's zest!

M. M.

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ARTICLES BY STAFF MEMBERS

RECENT BOOKS ON HUMAN RELATIONS. A selected reading list for junior high school students. Mildred Kaufman, Wilson Library Bulletin, November, 1950.

A selected, annotated list of books prepared in connection with the 1950 Human Relations Institute for Teachers and Librarians held recently in Boston. The list is amplified by a discussion of its background and purpose, and the principles involved in the selection, together with a detailed discussion of individual titles and series.

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TALKS BY STAFF MEMBERS

Miss Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection for Home Reading Services, has spoken on her European trip at meetings of the following:

Boston Simmons Club, Boston.

New England Acadia Alumnae Association, Cambridge.

Old Colony Library Club, Middleborough.

*

Miss Muriel C. Figenbaum, Print Department, has given a number of talks in the past few weeks on her experiences last winter in Europe, supplemented by kodachrome slides taken during her stay. She has spoken before the Massachusetts School of Art Alumni Association, The Boston Printmakers, and the Boston University Protestant Club.

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BRANCH LIBRARIANS THANKED

It is a pleasure to publish a letter commending the work of Branch Librarians during art week.

The School Committee of the City of Boston
DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

My dear Mrs Andelman,

As chairman of the Art Week program for the Boston Public Schools, I would like to express to you and all the Branch Librarians our appreciation of the splendid cooperation given to our department last week.

We hope that an increased attendance at the Libraries and the interest in the exhibitions shown by parents and young people, make you all feel well repaid for the extra work involved.

Very truly yours,

(signed) Marjorie Loring
Supervisor in charge of Art Week

Nov. 8, 1950

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MATERIAL OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

M.I.T. OPENS NEW LIBRARY. Library Journal, August 15, 1950, pp. 1250-1256.

Lamont Library at Harvard now has a formidable rival in the recently opened $2,200,000 Charles Hayden Memorial Library at M.I.T. A full discussion of the background and purpose of the Library, a detailed description of its arrangement and layout, and the generous illustrations of its interior and exterior innovations will be of interest to those who have not yet had an opportunity to visit it.

WINDOWS TO THE WEST. Haynes R. Mahoney, Library Journal, October 1, 1950, pp. 1583-86.

The story of "Amerika Haus" typical of the twenty-five U.S. information centers established in the major cities of the U.S. Occupation zone of Germany and the American sector in Berlin, their nature, purpose and success in aiding German recovery and acquainting the German people with the ideals of American democracy.

DARNDEST PLACE IN WASHINGTON. Henry F. and Katharine Pringle, Saturday Evening Post, August 19, 1950, pp. 32-33, 93-97.

An excellent example of effective library publicity in a popular outlet is to be found in this lavishly illustrated, eye catching and attention holding article on the Library of Congress, its varied services, staff and clientele.

OUR LIBRARIES HAVE IN-SERVICE TRAINING. Alex Ladenson, Library Journal, October 1, 1950, pp. 1590-92.

A report on in-service training programs in effect in libraries throughout the country, based on a survey conducted by the Committee on Administration of the A.L.A. Division of Cataloging and Classification. In the area of promotional training the Boston Public Library's in-service training program was found to be the best by the Committee. That the survey was not quite exhaustive is suggested by the fact that although the article refers to the Cleveland Public Library's (now inactive) annual staff institute, sponsored by the Public Library Workers Association before the war, no reference is made to the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association's two institutes and workshop as examples of this type of in-service training.

SUCCESS IN NEW YORK STATE. Thomas H. McKaig, Wilson Library Bulletin, September, 1950, pp. 43-45.

Describes the New York Library Association's ten-year fight to put into effect a state aid program, and the promotional activities carried on over the years which were responsible for its final adoption by the legislature.

HAVE THE NEWER MEDIA MADE READING OBSOLETE? Andrew Heiskel, Library Journal, October 1, 1950, pp. 1577-81.

Librarians who have been alarmed at the threat to reading in the various new media of communication may derive some comfort from the findings of Life Magazine's publisher, who sees these media serving not as a threat but rather complementary to the printed page.

THE LIBRARY INQUIRY IS NOT OVER. A proposed plan to translate the findings of the Public Library Inquiry into action. Edward L. Bernays, Wilson Library Bulletin, November, 1950, pp. 245-46.

The Counsel on Public Relations whom Time Magazine has called "U.S. publicist number one", urges the A.L.A. to assume leadership now in educating public opinion and taking action to attain those objectives agreed upon as desirable by the profession as a result of the findings of Public Library Inquiry.

L. S. M.

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DO YOU CARE?

Have you met the student librarian from Norway? Did you meet the visiting German Librarians? Have you seen the newsreels or read the newspaper writeups of the Korean people? Have you been reading about Dr Ralph Bunche and the Israel problem? Of course, each of you has encountered visually one of these situations at least once within the past month. How aware it must make you of the desperate need of people from these and other countries for help from Americans. It is true that the American outlook toward the Korean War has changed somewhat, but it has lost none of its grimness, and the Koreans need of aid from us is just as acute. With this stark situation staring us in the face, how can anyone begrudge a slight gift to CARE? -- the price of a few weekly sodas, the price of a few packs of cigarettes, one movie a month? Is any one of these things too much for one American to give up? Ask the one who knows - YOU.

It is good to know that we have sent a check to CARE in October and the committee is happy to report that the amount was for $200 -- all given by the B.P.L.'ers. $150 has been allotted for food packages to Israel, Korea, Norway, India, Greece, and the Netherlands. $50 will be used to supply books to foreign libraries in need.

However poignant this appeal may seem to you, it is not enough to just comply

with a nod of the head, and the thought, "I agree"; the response hoped for is a more material one, -- gracious, generous giving on each one's part. Don't let the act go undone one moment longer than necessary, for you are being counted on to care for CARE. Don't let it be said of any of us -- "He that's long a-giving knows not how to give."

COMMITTEE ON CARE

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A perusal of some copies of Library Life, Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library, brought to light an article written for the May 15, 1923, issue on work with clubs in the North End. It seems particularly appropriate to include in this number of The Question Mark a reprint of that article, in part.

NORTH END LIBRARY CLUBS.

Among the libraries composing our system, the North End Branch stands unique by reason of its successful club work with young people. The visit of many members of the Library staff to the North End to witness the clever work of the Club members in "Madame Butterfly" roused general interest, and many questions have been asked regarding the origin, object and development of club work in connection with the Branch.

This work originated in 1899, at "Station W," when Miss Edith Guerrier was librarian. She noted, and was troubled by the fact, that the children took out books one day and returned them the next, having read only the first few pages. Among various efforts to interest them in finishing a book, she started a story-hour, with the double purpose of developing in the children a taste for good literature and of encouraging them to complete a story which they had begun.

Saturday Evening Girls

The first club group was composed of about thirty girls of the eighth grade, at that time the graduating grade, of the Hancock School. This group gathered on Saturday evenings and was accordingly called the "Saturday Evening Girls."

As time went on, other groups were formed, and soon the whole of Saturday afternoon was given up to groups from the different school grades. Suddenly the oldest group became ambitious, organized itself, chose a president, secretary and treasurer, and a governing board of ten members, known as the House Committee. It was now launched as a real club!

Mrs James J. Storrow, at this time chairman of the Library Committee for the North End Industrial School, became interested in these groups, and in the summer of 1907 she loaned for their use a camp house in Plymouth. One of the workers at the North Bennet Street School had charge of this house, and the members of the clubs, who went to camp for two weeks, paid board at the rate of $3.00 a week. The following summer Mrs Storrow bought a camp site at West Gloucester and built there a large and attractive camp house, which these groups used until 1920.

The Pottery.

As the years went by, it was noticed that certain members of the groups never went to camp. Investigation disclosed that this was because they could not afford to take the time, since in the places where they worked, vacation with pay was not given. Miss Guerrier then tried to find some means by which the girls could have a vacation at camp, and while there earn enough money to offset the loss of their two weeks' salary. Experiments led to the establishment of the Paul Revere Pottery, which, however, existed at the West Gloucester camp for only about two weeks, since it was found impracticable to conduct the work there. The idea was carried on, however, as it was thought that it might be worked out as a part-time industry by which some of the girls could earn sufficient money to enable them to continue in school. Many parents of the foreign girls in the North End were, at that time, disinclined to allow the girls to continue beyond the grammar school, and it was felt that if this industry could be developed so that the girls could earn three or four dollars a week, enough for car fare and part of their clothes, the parents would be willing to let them continue longer in school. The present successful Paul Revere Pottery in Brighton developed from this community industry.

By this time Mrs Storrow had become so much interested in the clubs that she bought a house on Copp's Hill and fitted

it up for clubs and for continuing the experiment of pottery making. Miss Guerrier lived in this house for seven years, while connected with the library at the North End. When the pottery was moved to Brighton the clubs were transferred to the basement at the North End Branch Library, where, through the generosity of Mrs Storrow, attractive club rooms had been fitted up. The members themselves paid for a worker with the clubs and for all expenses connected with the work.

Half-hours

Each club had a weekly two-hour meeting, divided into four half-hour periods, as follows:

1. Business and ethics, clean hands, care of the books, honesty, etc.
2. Story-telling and good reading.
3. Chorus work, for the purpose of fostering a love for good music.
4. Folk-dancing and organized play. This served to create interest in refined methods of dancing.

It may be remarked in passing that in groups of this kind it was necessary, in order to hold the interest of the members, to include social features such as folk-dancing and chorus work. The result of this program was that girls who had remained in the clubs for a number of years would seldom be found reading trash or enjoying a poor play. For three years the club published a newspaper known as the S.E.G. News. This paper was printed at the Industrial School for Crippled Children, and paid for itself through advertisements and the subscription price, which was $1.00 a year. Plays were produced, sometimes as many as twelve being given by the different clubs during the year, and an operetta or concert was usually given each season.

In 1919, upon Miss Guerrier's removal to the Central Library, these groups were necessarily dissolved. The original members of the old groups, however, still meet with her several times a year at her own home.

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THIRD ANNUAL HUMAN RELATIONS INSTITUTE

On Saturday, October 28, the third annual Human Relations Institute for teachers and librarians, sponsored by the Boston Public Library with the co-operation of the Boston Public Schools, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, was held in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library. Mrs Muriel Javelin, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reports that this was perhaps the most successful of the three Institutes. Over two hundred educators attended both the morning and the afternoon sessions. Dr Dennis C. Haley, Superintendent, Boston Public Schools, delivered the Keynote Address and Mr Joseph C. White, Chairman, Boston School Committee, and Co-Chairman, Northeastern Region, National Conference of Christian and Jews, brought greetings from the Conference. Miss Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection for Home Reading Services, Miss Pauline Winnick, Children's Librarian, Codman Square Branch Library, and Miss Mildred Kaufman, Children's Librarian, Mattapan Branch Library, gave brief summaries of recent books in the field of Human Relations. Miss Peck covered books for teachers and librarians; Miss Winnick, books for primary and elementary students; and Miss Kaufman spoke on books for junior high and senior high school students. Book lists were prepared for distribution by the speakers. Dr Floyde E. Brooker, Chief, Visual Aids to Education, Washington, D. C., in the main address of the morning, stressed the importance of education in combating the forces of the cold war. He emphasized the fact that visual aids, if properly utilized, could and should be a most effective medium of education. The U.N. sound motion picture OF HUMAN RIGHTS was shown and discussed, and Dr Brooker suggested several ways in which it might be used.

Dr Herbert L. Seamans, Director, Commission on Educational Organizations, National Conference of Christians and Jews, was the speaker at the luncheon meeting at the Red Coach Grill. Dr Seamans' talk Practices - Not Preachments was both practical and inspirational. Miss Louise Day, President, Massachusetts Library Association, and Librarian, Lynn Public Library, presided at the luncheon meeting. Guests at the luncheon included: Dr Alexander Brin, Chairman, Massachusetts State Board of Education; Dr Brooker; Dr Chin; Dr William F. Looney, President, Boston Teachers College; Mr Kenneth Shaffer, Director, Simmons College Library

School; Monsignor Cornelius Sherlock, Diocesan Director of Parochial Schools; and Mr White.

The Socio-Drama Demonstration, conducted by Dr Robert Chin, Professor of Psychology, and Chairman, Human Relations Program, Boston University, was an outstanding example of audience participation. To see ten or twenty individuals desiring to speak at once was quite an experience. The afternoon program concluded with a Buzz Session.

Students from Simmons College Library School and Boston Teachers College served as ushers. The members of the Planning Committee were: Miss Doris I. Boyd, Dean of Girls, Beverly High School; Mr Gerald F. Coughlin, Assistant Superintendent, Boston Public Schools; Miss Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor, in Charge of Work with Children, Boston Public Library; Mr Francis L. Hurwitz, Executive Secretary, Northeastern Region, National Confernece of Christians and Jews; Miss Miriam Kallen, Director of the Reading Center, Teachers College of the City of Boston; Mr Miles G. Lee, Teacher, William Howard Taft School, Brighton; and Miss Edna Phillips, Librarian, Morrill Memorial Library, Norwood.

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THOMAS H. O'CONNOR TEACHING AT BOSTON COLLEGE

The Statistical Department shares with us the reminiscences put into verse by Tom O'Connor when he left the department to become an instructor in History at Boston College. We are sorry that we cannot reproduce the graphic illustrations, but the original copy may be seen and read in the Statistical Department.

MEMOIRS AND REMINISCENCES
by
Thomas H. O'Connor
November 2, 1950

IN "42" I CAME TO STAT,
PREPARED TO SPEND SOME TIME:
BUT UNCLE SAM HAD OTHER PLANS
- SO HERE IT IS IN RHYME:

THEY DRESSED ME UP IN KHAKI BROWN
AND HANDED ME A GUN.
THEY TOLD ME I WAS MECHANIZED
- BUT ALL I DID WAS RUN.

I LANDED UP IN INDIA
(A "JUNKET", SO I'M TOLD)
WHERE ALL THE DAYS ARE BROILING HOT,
AND THE NIGHTS ARE FREEZING COLD.

BUT WHEN MY ARMY DAYS WERE THROUGH
AND ALL MY WOES BEHIND ME,
THEN BACK TO STAT I MADE MY WAY
'CAUSE HERE THEY'D NEVER FIND ME!

FROM THE BLODDY, RUTHLESS, KILLER
FROM THE MILITARY SAVAGE,
I SLOWLY REHABILITATED
- AND WENT QUIETLY BACK TO COLLEGE.

FOUR YEARS OF WORK AND STUDY
WENT BY QUICKLY - ONE BY ONE.
AND THEN THE COLLEGE FACULTY SAID:
"GET OUT - YOU'RE THROUGH - YOU'RE DONE!!"

I TUCKED MY SHEEPSKIN UNDER MY ARM
AND RUSHED TO COPLEY SQUARE.
THEY GAVE ME A JOB IN STATISTICAL
- THE ONLY ONES WHO'D DARE!

NOW MEN OF LEARNING FAR AND WIDE
SAW MY VALUE TO THE NATION.
THEY CAME TO BEG AND PLEAD WITH ME
- FOR THE SAKE OF EDUCATION.

I'VE READ "MR. CHIPS" ASSIDUOUSLY,
HEAR THE "HALLS OF IVY", TOO,
AND WHEN MY CLASS GETS REALLY STUCK,
I'LL SEND THEM DOWN TO YOU !!!

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SIMMONS STUDENTS VISIT LIBRARY

On Monday, October 30, 1950, Mr Kenneth R. Shaffer, Director of the Simmons College School of Library Science, with some ninety students from the school made their annual visit to the Central Library. The Director welcomed them in the Lecture Hall and spoke to them on the Library, following which they were guided through the building by members of the staff.

On the following Monday afternoon, in three groups, the students visited three of our branch libraries, as follows:

Mattapan Branch Library
North End Branch Library
West End Branch Library

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CAPE COD LIBRARY CLUB CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The annual fall meeting of the Cape Cod Library Club, held in Harwichport on October 27, was of especial significance in this year of 1950 inasmuch as it was a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Club.

Greetings from Mr Milton E. Lord, Immediate Past President of the American Library Association were read. Greetings from the Massachusetts Library Association were brought by Miss Catharine M. Yerxa, Vice President. Mr Stacy B. Southworth, Chairman of the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners, one of the speakers at the afternoon session, brought greetings from the Commission. Miss E. Louise Jones was present as an honorary member of the Club. While it was not possible for the founder of the Club, Mrs Mabel R. Agassiz, to be present, she was represented by two trustees from the Yarmouth Library Association, of which Mrs Agassiz is now an honorary trustee.

Mrs Caroline R. Seibens, Librarian of the South Yarmouth Library Association and a former member of the staff of the Brookline Public Library, was re-elected president of the Cape Cod Library Club for a second term.

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MILITARY SERVICE

The Publications Committee is happy to give below the addresses of members of the staff who are on military leaves of absence to facilitate the sending of Christmas greetings.

Laurence Bushey, SR, 900-18-79
Co. 256
U. S. Navy Training Corps
Great Lakes, Illinois

Pvt. Norma E. Dalton, WA 8100634
Company C (WAC)
7774 Signal Battalion
APO 403
c/o Postmaster
New York City

Lt. Bernard J. O'Neil, USNR
Aerology Section
Naval Air Station
Quonset Point
Rhode Island

S.A. Michael J. Venezia 900-25-61
142nd Batt. 14th Reg. Co. 265,
Camp Moffett
USNTC, Great Lakes, Illinois

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SHOWER FOR MARIE MCCARTHY

Miss Marie McCarthy of the Book Purchasing Department, was given a surprise shower at the Fife and Drum Room, Hotel Vendome, Monday evening, November 13. The bride-to-be received many lovely gifts from her friends and a beautiful orchid corsage.

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BRANCH NOTES

City Point

Visitors have been enthusiastic about the colorful and interesting subjects arranged by the 1950 Committee for Art Week. The work of students at the Benjamin Dean, the Gaston, the Patrick Gavin, the Thomas N. Hart, and the Oliver H. Perry Schools showed unusual talent.

THE CIRCUS with its elephants, giraffes, zebras, and camels, as well as THE TRAPEZE ARTIST and THE SIDE SHOW, were realistically presented. THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY on a busy afternoon and a gala affair at the BOSTON GARDEN vied with one another to attract attention.

Third dimensional work showing interior decorating and a tropical garden, together with paintings of still life proudly showed the young artists' talented work. Marine scenes were exceptionally well done. They depicted angry seas, sails in the sunset, and boats wrecked along the shore.

Many enquiries were made about purchasing some of them.

Jamaica Plain

The public and staff feel the absence of Miss Mildred R. Adelson. Miss Adelson is in the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, 243 Charles Street, Boston 14, where she had an operation for a detached retina. We are all rooting for her and we know that you will join us.

Parker Hill

In observance of Art Week, an exhibit of drawings by the pupils of the Thomas Dwight,

Farragut, and Martin Schools was on display from November 1-10 in the Children's Room. In addition, the High School Room and Adult Room were enlivened by a beautiful and colorful display of paintings done by the art classes of Commerce High School under the supervision of Mr Rosenthal.

*

Girl Scout Week was observed by a display of handicraft made by the girl scouts of the Mission Hill Housing Project.

*

Miss Marie E. Murphy has been transferred to East Boston Branch Library.

West End

The young fry are proving how apt is the expression, "The play's the thing!" In recent months, several plays have been produced by various small groups of girls and boys at the library. On October 28, eight girls of the St. Joseph's School enacted a play called "Happy Haunts" as a special Hallowe'en treat at the regular story hour. Acting as their own press agents, the young actresses publicized the forthcoming event to the extent that an audience of 76 children appeared for the performance, and from their enthusiastic reaction, it seemed that they approved heartily of that form of entertainment. To supplement the play, Miss Elinor Day, children's librarian, told a Hallowe'en story. Small black masks and baskets of Hallowe'en candy were given to the children to celebrate the occasion.

*

Art Week, October 30 to November 4, was observed by an exhibition of paintings by pupils of the William Blackstone School. Real talent and genuine interest were shown in the unusual interpretations of flower groups and scenes from nature.

*

Children's Book Week, November 13-20, is being observed by a unique and colorful exhibition of original children's book illustrations by the foremost illustrators. Of particular interest are the rich variety of media used, some being executed in pen and ink, others in tempera colors, while still others were done in free water color. In many cases it is possible to exhibit the original drawing along with the finished printed illustration to afford an interesting comparison. Assembled material in the form of publishers' catalogs, bookmarks, illustrations and book jackets are being distributed to teachers, social workers, and other people in the community who work with children. Plans have been made for a number of classes from both the elementary and junior high schools of the district to visit the library during the week to give them a foretaste of the literary treats in store for them in the coming year.

*

On November 8, two staff changes were put into effect, Miss Dorothea A. Blue was transferred to the Parker Hill Branch Library. The day before, she was presented with a gift, and an impromptu party was given her that night. Miss Helen M. Donovan, who had been with the Bookmobile, was transferred to West End and has already become a member of the family.

*

On November 10, Miss Goldstein entertained the entire staff and some former West Endites at a supper party in her new home. As usual her hospitality was unsurpassed and a delightful evening was enjoyed by all. The staff presented Miss Goldstein with a pair of boudoir lamps as a house-warming gift.

*

Miss Goldstein recently received a communication by mail from an unknown admirer, who said in part, "Dear Boston Librarian, You've been among the pillars of my Boston education, on a par even with Harvard's Prof. Edward Caldwell Moore, tho' you but faintly know about it. May I now respectfully again inquire how you are ..."

South Boston

The November meeting of the Branch Librarians was held at the South Boston Branch Library in order to give those august personages an opportunity to inspect the new home of the second oldest

branch library. What they saw was a store decorated in two tones of green, with large display windows and a new magazine case which give it a modern look. Several remarks were made about the advantage of being on the street level, a fact already made evident by the frequent comments from patrons, "How wonderful! No stairs!" and by the sharp rise in circulation brought by new borrowers and by renewals of cards from the inactive file.

At 12:30 p.m. a luncheon of sandwiches, ice cream, cake, and coffee was served by a caterer. A beautiful cyclamen plant from the Branch Librarians and a large bouquet of pompom chrysanthemums from Miss Cufflin, former branch librarian of South Boston, were much appreciated by the staff.

Friends who joined the Branch Librarians for luncheon were Miss Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, Miss M. Florence Cufflin and Miss Rebecca E. Willis, Branch Librarians, Emeritus, Mesdames Ada A. Andelman, Muriel C. Javelin, Grace B. Loughlin, Elizabeth L. Wright, and Misses Ruth S. Cannell, Beatrice M. Flanagan, Elizabeth M. Gordon, Ethel M. Hazlewood, Mary M. McDonough, Edna G. Peck, and Sarah M. Usher.

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Open Shelf

On Wednesday, November 8, the staff entertained Mrs Muriel C. Javelin at luncheon in the Town Room of the Copley Plaza Hotel. Misses Louisa Metcalf, Ollie Partridge, Marie Cashman, and Mesdames Lydia Palladino and Sigrid Reddy were present, as well as Miss Mary McDonough of the Book Preparation Department. They presented Mrs Javelin with an opal-centered gold pin, and Mrs Javelin took pictures to mark the occasion. Mrs Javelin had been Chief of the Department since 1940, and will now devote her entire time to her duties as Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults.

*

On Saturday evening, November 11, the members of the Open Shelf Department and Mrs Javelin's Office were the guests of Mr and Mrs William Javelin at their home on Clearwater Drive. The guest of honor was little George Maloof, four-months old son of Edward Maloof and Kathryn Dolan Maloof, formerly a part-time assistant in the Open Shelf Department. Mr and Mrs John Reddy showed color slides taken on their three-months' trip to Europe last summer and the Javelins showed their slides (also in color) taken in Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and points en route. As a third attraction, slides of the weddings of Sigrid Reddy and Kathryn Maloof were shown. Earlier in the day Mrs Javelin received a very beautiful yellow chrysanthemum plant from the group.

Print

On November first Miss Pamela Brown, who was playing in Boston in Christopher Fry's "The Lady's Not for Burning" opposite John Gielgud, paid a short visit to the Department at the invitation of Mr and Mrs Heintzelman to see some of the work of her father-in-law, John Copley. She was amazed and pleased to find a complete collection of his lithographs in the Boston Public Library. This collection was formerly the personal collection of the artist and contains many notes of interest. Many of Copley's most important prints are of Peter Copley, Miss Brown's husband. Miss Brown has been seen in Boston in the moving picture "I Know Where I'm Going", and in New York in other British plays and pictures. Her husband, Peter Copley, is a member of the Old Vic Theatre in London and has also appeared in this country.

*

On the same afternoon an informal opening of the Gustav Wolf Exhibition was held for the widow of the artist and a few of her friends. Mrs Wolf is presenting this outstanding collection to the Library and the exhibition is proving to be one of the most interesting to be held in the Wiggin Gallery.

*

Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, has graciously donated his latest etching, a portrait of Albert Schweitzer, for the benefit of the Albert Schweitzer Festival in Boston to give concrete assistance to Dr Schweitzer's Hospital in French Equatorial Africa. The print may

be purchased at the Boris Mirski Gallery on Newbury Street.

****

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

BALLADE UPON A REFERENCE REPLY

One Phineas Pharphel, clerke of Danbury, Conn.
Troubled by questions he did think upon
Bethought himself a letter he would write
With celerity and swiftly expedite
To seek the answer to his mystery
Unto the large and public library
Which situate in Boston town doth be
Noted for prompt and simple courtesy.

Betimes the letter came to Copley Square
Passed through the divers official channels there
Was stamped and dated by the higher echelon
And then the lower until it came anon
With dispatch and with right good speed
Unto the hand of Athanasius Smeed.
A lowly reference fellow was this Smeed,
Quite fond of lore and given to bookish screed,
Who took to heart each notice and memorandum
(Swallowed 'em whole while others only scanned 'em)
Ambitious, young and happy in the notion
Advancing years would bring a Big Promotion.

Right merrily and with a right good will
Smeed set to work and searched and searched until
Within a tome quite ancient, beat and musty
He came upon the answer "presto fusti"
(Which is Italian for, "I do declare
Who'd ever think to find that there thing there.")
Straightway he sat to write his discovery
Unto the scholar in distant Danbury
In simple language such as he was taught
In the grammar school where learning he had sought;
Dotted each i and crossed each tiny t
And felt his mind at rest and conscience free.

He little recked the chore he thought all done
Was only just, and not too well, begun,
For libraries large and proud of reputation
Before they'll send a letter through the nation
Blessed with their sign and signature upon it
Must have it perfect as Petrarchean sonnet;
And for to safeguard 'gainst fate melancholy
Brought on by indiscreet and youthful folly
Have wisely chosen experts to examine
Each reference letter for deadly gravamen.

Smeed's paltry prose they pounced upon with glee
Uncovering each fault with great alacrity;
Inserting colons where colons there were none,
Inserting semi's where commas were begun.
And one did think the choice of words too massive;
And one did think the mood not enough passive;
And one did think it brief unto a failing;
And one did think it hypersesquipedalian.
And so it went and so corrections grew
'Til Ossa piled on Pelion poor Smeed knew.

(There was no malice in it, there's no question,
For all remarks were meant just as suggestion,
But since suggestions were scribbled on his letter
Smeed had to type it over; 'twould look better.)

So back and forth it whisked, the sad
epistle,
And Smeed, careworn, forgot to sing or
whistle.
Unhappy Smeed as his mistakes grew more,
He made mistakes he'd never heard of be-
fore,
'Til lo! at last, as he reached the break-
ing point,
Tired and weary, an ache in every joint,
His answer was approved without delay
Three years from date received right to
the day.

And then anon there came a grateful note
From Danbury, Connecticut, 'twas wrote,
"My husband would have found your answer
fascinating
But Phineas Pharphel died while he was
waiting."

The End

*

To the Soap Box:

It may be good administrative policy to transfer persons without announcing vacancies in the case of moving first assistants, second assistants, or children's librarians -- and even branch librarians -- to comparable positions in other branch libraries. However, in the case of a vacancy in the position of Chief of the Open Shelf Department, which we are led to believe will develop into a unique department in the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, how could a decision have been made fairly that the position would be filled by transfer rather than by promotion until it was known to the Administration which qualified persons were interested in the position. Transferring arbitrarily, as appears to have been the case, without allowing qualified individuals to apply, would seem to the average person to be putting the cart before the horse.

*

For the Soap Box:

The $64 question this month is: Why was not the position of Chief of Open Shelf Department announced as a vacancy to be filled either by promotion or transfer?

*

To the Editor:

It would be very interesting to learn just how many employees knew of the vacancy in the Open Shelf Department and how many eligible employees had a chance to apply for this position. I, for one, knew nothing about it until the notice came out notifying all that a new Chief had been appointed to Open Shelf, and in discussing it with many fellow-employees find that they, too, were ignorant of the situation.

Is the practice of notifying the staff of vacancies in Titular positions, so that qualified individuals may apply and be considered for such positions, no longer to be adhered to?

Perplexed

*

Dear Soap Box:

Do you suppose we shall be notified officially of the new vacancy in the Branch Issue Department?

JUST WONDERING

*

Dear Soap Box:

It was with interest that I read the notice sent out November 3, 1950, relative to the reorganization of the Open Shelf Department, and the accompanying notice announcing the new chief of that department.

I would like it understood that my comments concern not the person chosen for that position but the method used in making the choice.

A few weeks ago we were all invited to the Lecture Hall where during the three staff meetings hundreds of man hours were consumed in an explanation to the staff of a point system relative to the filling of titular positions. Much emphasis was placed on college and library school training with due consideration given to experience. I understood that titular positions were to be "posted" in order that anyone interested might have the opportunity of applying. Yet when a titular position -- and a very desirable position it is -- became available in the Open Shelf Department, it was announced and filled simultaneously. Certainly a very great number of staff members were not aware

until that Friday afternoon that such a vacancy existed.

Were it not for the fact that a similar position -- that of Branch Librarian at Jamaica Plain Branch -- was duly posted and months later filled by a transfer, I would assume that I had misunderstood and that the "posting" process applied only to new positions. If Jamaica Plain Branch librarianship was open to competition, why not Chief of Open Shelf Department which is a comparable, only more desirable, position?

As I pointed out above, this is not any reflection on the person chosen. She may be the best qualified for the position; yet, it is common knowledge that she has neither college nor library school training. Now that fact may be very comforting to those within the service who are hoping for promotion, or transfer, to a more desirable position without those requisites. However, to those of us who are younger in the service and who are striving, sometimes under very great difficulties, to acquire college and/or library school training, it leaves a great unanswered question. Just how essential within the library system is college or library school training? Unless we can be sure that certain procedures are to be adhered to in all instances, it leaves those of us who are striving educationally, as well as by means of good service on the present job, in a state of uncertainty. If good jobs are filled before we know they exist, why all the elaborate set-up?

My personal opinion is that the filling of the position of Chief of the Open Shelf Department without posting the fact that it was available and filling it with a person who has neither college nor library school training has done much to undermine the morale of the staff.

FLASH

Good food! Good prices! Big crowds! These are a few of the remarks overheard in the corridors in the days following the opening of THE COFFEE SHOP.
One suggestion has been made also:
Would not staggering relief periods help to relieve the congestion?

****

LATE FLASHES

Dr Martin Cremer, Director, Westdeutsche Bibliothek, Marburg, Germany, visited Central Library on November 15.

*

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Marie E. Murphy, East Boston Branch Library, to Mr Joseph T. White of Charlestown.

*

Miss Marion E. Flaherty, Orient Heights Branch Library, was married to Mr Francis L. Martin on November 11.

*

Announcement has been made of the birth of a son, David Thomas, Jr., on November 13, 1950 to Mr and Mrs David T. McDonnell. Mrs McDonnell is the former Martha McGee of Dorchester Branch Library.

****

LATER FLASH

Second Shower for Marie McCarthy

On November 15, the second shower of the week was given in honor of Miss Marie McCarthy. This one, held in the Women's Lounge at five o'clock, was planned by members of the Book Purchasing Department where she works. Friends from other parts of the Library were also present. Marie received many beautiful gifts, and refreshments were tasty and abundant. November 25 has been set as the wedding date for her marriage to Mr Herbert C. Hewes, Jr.

****

LATEST FLASH

The Question Mark could easily have been ready for distribution on the fifteenth, but it has been held over until the sixteenth intentionally. Why? Just in case any member of the Library staff should be among the six City of Boston employees "who have made outstanding contributions to the public service," to whom awards were to be made on the fifteenth at the Public Service Dinner given by Boston Municipal Research Bureau. We wanted to have the opportunity of congratulating him or her publicly without waiting a whole month.

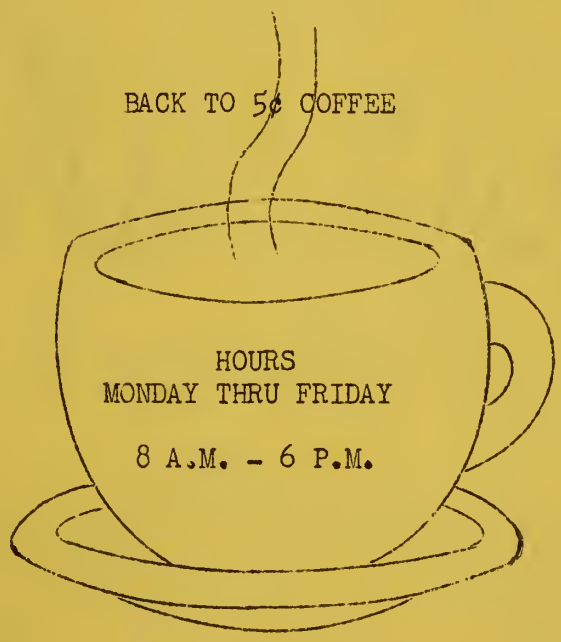
We are glad that we waited! Miss Fanny Goldstein was given one of the six awards accompanied by a check for $50. The citation reads as follows:

> This certificate is awarded to Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, West End Library, Library Department.
>
> She has labored for more than a quarter-century for the social and civic welfare of the West End and of the City of Boston at large, giving generously of her skill, her energy, and her deep human sympathy to bring about better understanding among the various races and classes of people with whom she has come in contact. By word and deed alike she sets an admirable example to her staff, her colleagues and the community. Both as a professional librarian and as a loyal and active citizen she serves Boston well.

Our sincere congratulations to Miss Goldstein -- personally, and for upholding the honor of the Library Department. We're proud of her!

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE COFFEE SHOP



Operator - SAMUEL ADELSTEIN

The Concession Committee is pleased to announce the opening of the food concession in the Central Library building on

November 14, 1950

Located on the Stack 2 level near the women's locker room, the Concession will be known as,

The Coffee Shop

CONCESSION COMMITTEE

Aaron Starr, Chairman
Charles Gillis
Barbara Gilson
Rita Doherty
Joseph A. Lynch
Mary C. Robbins

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

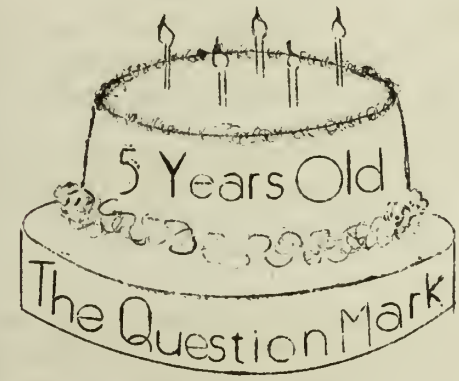
Volume V, Number 12 December 1950

Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, M. Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

Publication date
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER



As The Question Mark completes its fifth year, and as it starts upon the second five years looking toward the completion of its first decade, it is mindful of the fate which befell its predecessor, Library Life -- abandonment at the end of five years. In the lifetime of many present employees there has been one staff publication only, but many other persons recall with nostalgia the days when Library Life flourished in printed form. Quoting from its first editorial:

"Library Life will be a composite autobiography, to which every member of the staff will be expected to contribute his share. It will be the duty of the editors from month to month to shape this continuous story into some sort of unity, that we may be able to trace the growth in the corporate life of which each one of us is a part."

We commend to your reading that earlier publication, which was directed by able editorial staffs appointed by the Administration, was launched with greetings from the President of the Board of Trustees and the Director, and which went out of existence after five years.

A review of the organization and purpose of The Question Mark shows that it came into being because the constitution of the newly-organized staff association stipulated that there should be a staff bulletin. Its first editorial is quoted in part:

"The present plan is to cover in brief form current library news and personal notes of general interest, with occasional notices of special books or articles on library topics. Further suggestions will be very welcome. There might, for instance, be an 'open forum' section; or one for discussion of projects underway in the Branches or at Central; or any other feature which you would find useful."

The Question Mark has never passed beyond the mimeographed stage, but it has grown in size and developed in content. At the end of five years it has lived through its early growing pains and enters its sixth year a robust child. More power to it!

****

SAVE FEBRUARY 23, 1951

Mr Archibald MacLeish

Boylston Professor of
Rhetoric and Oratory,
Harvard University;
Former Librarian of Congress

Guest Speaker

*

Reception
for Mr MacLeish and Newly-elected
Officers of the BPLPSA

*

Watch for Further Announcements

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Mrs Barbara C. Elam, North End Branch Library.

Mr William R. Lewis, History Department.

Miss Mary C. Day, East Boston Branch Library (formerly worked part-time at Connolly Branch Library)

Miss Winifred L. Glotzer, Mt Bowdoin Branch Library.

Military Service

Mrs Sarah W. Flannery, Chief of the History Department and Deputy Supervisor of Reference and Research Services, has been recalled to active duty with the United States Navy. She will be located at the Wave Officers Quarters, Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia.

Mr Robert J. Harris, Book Stack Service, has been called to active service with the United States Army.

Change of Address

Laurence R. Bushey, S.A. 900-18-79
N-57 1006 2nd Avenue
N.A.T.T.C. Memphis 15, Tennessee

Transferred

Miss Dorothea A. Blue, from West End Branch Library to Parker Hill Branch Library.

Miss Mary A. Blute, from Brighton Branch Library to Uphams Corner Branch Library.

Miss Lois Cheverie, from Uphams Corner Branch Library to Bookmobile.

Miss Helen M. Donovan, from Bookmobile to West End Branch Library.

Miss Jennie M. Femino, from East Boston Branch Library to Allston Branch Library.

Mrs Iphigenia L. Fillios, from West Roxbury Branch Library to Brighton Branch Library.

Mrs Evelyn G. Green, from Jamaica Plain Branch Library to Bookmobile.

Miss Katherine A. LaBonte, from Allston Branch Library to Brighton Branch Library.

Miss Patricia M. Egan, from Charlestown Branch Library to Washington Village Branch Library.

Miss Marie E. Murphy, from Parker Hill Branch Library to East Boston Branch Library.

Miss Marjorie A. Obenauer, from Bookmobile to Jamaica Plain Branch Library.

Miss Tyyne M. Saari, from North End Branch Library to Jamaica Plain Branch Library.

Miss Marion Siraco, from Washington Village Branch Library to Charlestown Branch Library.

Miss A. Phyllis Freeman, from Mattapan Branch Library to Mt Pleasant Branch Library.

Miss Etta Lasker, from Mt Pleasant Branch Library to Codman Square Branch Library.

Miss Eleanor O'Leary, from Codman Square Branch Library to Dorchester Branch Library.

Marriages

Miss Marie F. McCarthy, Book Purchasing Department, to Mr Herbert C. Hewes, Jr. Mr Hewes is on military leave from the Book Stack Service.

Miss Patricia E. McDonough, Washington Village Branch Library, to Mr Joseph J. Egan.

Births

A daughter, Margaret Anne, to Mr and Mrs William B. Kelley, Jr., November 15, 1950. Mrs Kelley is a member of the Book Selection Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

A son, Christopher Marc, to Mr and Mrs George Pahud, December 7, 1950. Mr Pahud is a member of the Music Department.

Resignations

Mrs Gloria O. Becker, Book Stack Service, to remain at home.

Mrs Isabella P. Windham, Information Office, to join her husband in Norfolk, Virginia.

Mr Ralph H. Sullivan, Kirstein Business Branch, to accept a position in the library of the Federal Security Agency in Washington, D. C.

****

MRS WALSH RETIRES

Mrs Mary Brick Walsh, who retired on November 25, was honored at a luncheon at the Hampshire House on Saturday, December 2. Besides the staff of the South Boston Branch Library, there were present Miss Ruth Hayes of Neponset, Miss Frances Lepie of Mt Bowdoin, Miss Mary Hackett of Parker Hill, Mrs Mary Obear of Uphams Corner, and Miss Veronica Yotts, all of whom had worked at some time with Mrs Walsh.

A basket decorated with a gay red and white bow and filled with delicacies from S. S. Pierce was presented to the guest of honor.

Mrs Walsh has a long record of service to the library, first as Branch Librarian at Uphams Corner Branch Library, until her resignation at the time of her marriage; then as Unclassified Assistant for the past eight years. For six of these years the South Boston Branch Library has benefited from her friendliness and enthusiasm for her work.

****

WEDDINGS

On Saturday, November 25, Miss Marie McCarthy, Book Purchasing Department, was married to Mr Herbert Hewes, Jr. of Boston, at St. Ambrose Church, Dorchester. The bride wore a candlelight satin gown with pearl embroidered and satin appliqued bertha. Her fingertip veil was caught to a juliet cap of satin lattice work, entwined with pearls. She carried a cascade of white glamellias, centered with Eucharistic lillies. The bride's sister, Miss Anne E. McCarthy, as maid of honor, wore a satin and taffeta gown of electric blue, and carried a cascade of pink and white chrysanthemums. A reception was held in the solarium of the Hotel Vendome. The couple are now residing in Dorchester after a honeymoon trip to the Berkshires.

****

TALKS BY STAFF MEMBERS

Mr Richard G. Appel attended a meeting of the Crescendo Club Tuesday, November 28, at the Hotel Touraine. Dean Holmes of the New England Conservatory of Music spoke of the scarcity of string players. Mr Appel invited members of the Club to make use of their library facilities and invited them especially to see the Boston Public Library's exhibition of gifts. He explained the value of the reference collection of music and said that students and organizations should be encouraged to purchase their own performing copies and not wear out out-of-print material.

****

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY
to

Miss Marion C. Kingman, South End Branch Library, 63 Perrin Street, Roxbury 19.

Miss Elizabeth H. McShane, Washington Village Branch Library, 370 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston 15.

Miss Eleanor O'Leary, Dorchester Branch Library, Massachusetts Memorial Hospital, 750 Harrison Avenue, Boston 18.

Miss Anne Moore, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services, 30 Upland Road, Brookline 46.

****

WE WELCOME BACK

Mrs Catherine Macauley, Mrs Pauline Puglisi, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Miss Barbara Gilson, History Department.

****

ALUMNAE NOTES

Mr and Mrs Bernard D. Shea, of Evanston, Illinois, have announced the birth of a daughter, Jennifer Hall Shea, November 15. Mr Shea was formerly part-time assistant at Fellowes Athenaeum Branch Library, and is the son of Mrs Rose Hall Shea, part-time assistant at South End Branch Library.

****

RECENT VISITORS

Professor Hideo Karasawa, Chief Assistant Librarian, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan.

Professor Shigehiko Funaki, Principal of the Ueno Library School, Tokyo, Japan.

Professor Hisnosuke Iziu, Professor of Linguistics in Kyoto National University and Librarian of the same institution.

****

DINNER FOR MRS LOUGHLIN

On Tuesday evening, November 21, a farewell dinner was given by the members of the Branch Issue Department, and several other friends, in honor of Mrs Grace B. Loughlin, on the occasion of her transfer to the Open Shelf Department. Shortly after five o'clock the group gathered at the Red Coach Grill where an excellent dinner was served. The guest of honor was resplendent in her best bib and tucker,

which was beautifully accented by a large and exotic-looking orchid.

Mrs Loughlin's friends presented her with a sterling silver dresser set which, in some mysterious way, they had discovered was something which she would enjoy having.

The festivities were prolonged and gay with laughter and pleasant reminiscences of past experiences shared, and the evening was well advanced before the party broke up.

While Mrs Loughlin will be greatly missed in the Branch Issue Department, we rejoice in her good fortune, and our best wishes go with her as she takes up her larger duties in the Open Shelf Department.

****

MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEES' UNION ORGANIZED

Maintenance Employees' Union, Local 1314 (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees) was organized in October 1950 under a charter granted it by the international union. Eligible for membership in this Union are all Civil Service employees in the Boston Public Library, a group which up to that time had no one organization of its own. The first official meeting was held on December 7 in the Temporary Conference Room. Mr Clifford L. Fay was unanimously elected President; Miss Jane Hasson, Vice President; Mr Arthur Burke, Financial Secretary; Miss Mary T. Sands, Secretary; Mr James W. Kinsella, Treasurer; and Mr Edward Lunny, Business Representative. All officers are members of the Buildings Department staff.

****

BOWLING LEAGUE

After eleven weeks of the present season, interest in the bowling league is still keen. There is a membership totalling 40 bowling enthusiasts who meet every Tuesday night, rain or shine.

Team 8, captained by Jack Keneavy, is leading the League by a record of 34 points won and only 10 points lost, while Team 1, captained by John Sullivan, is running a close second with 31 points won and 13 points lost.

The high single for the men is held by Dave Sheehan at 121 and for the women by Eileen Wilson at 109. The average for men is undisputedly held by John Sullivan with a high of 97.7, but the race is closer in the women's department with Eileen Wilson leading at 81.9 and Mary Sands a close second, at 80.4.

****

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At this season of the year the first thought is "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". With so many parts of the world aflame with the evidences of "man's inhumanity to man", we can be doubly grateful for the peace and security of our daily civilian lives. This year our Christmas greetings cannot be superficial. Their intent and meaning must be deep and lasting. We wish each and every one of you a goodly portion of the joy and peace which rightfully belong to every man, woman, and child at this season of the year. May your happiness at this Christmas season be but the foretaste of many more equally joyous Christmas seasons in the years to come.

*

Association activities move forward, though not with a speed tuned to the atomic age. The membership is to be congratulated on the large attendance at and active participation in the recent business meeting. Approximately one hundred and twenty-five members were in attendance which is very good representation considering that for many departments Friday morning is an especially busy period and in all instances the routine work of the Library must be given precedence over Association activities. The minutes of the meeting recently sent to the membership should acquaint those who were unable to attend with what transpired at the meeting.

*

Congratulations to Mr Green on his "sweet" activities. As the "Candy Man" he is hard to beat.

*

When the holiday season is over how about turning our attention to some social

activities? Yes, I know we shall be very busy with plans for the workshop -- but you know the old adage "all work and no play ..." -- and we mustn't be dull.
A country dance? -- a formal dance? -- a theatre party? Anyone with any bright and scintillating ideas please contact the president after January 1, 1951.

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WINTER WHIST AND DANCE PARTY

The Winter Whist and Dance Party sponsored by the Employees' Benefit Association was a huge success. On Saturday evening, December 2, Association members, other library employees, and their friends met in the Young People's Room and the Lecture Hall to play whist and dance.

Fifty-two beautiful prizes were awarded -- ranging from a silver plate service for eight people to a scenic calendar with lovely photographs in color. In addition there were door prizes of money, candy, and cigarettes.

Mr and Mrs Milton E. Lord were asked to work as well as play. Mrs Lord graciously selected the winners of the door prizes. Later, when square dancing was desired, Mr Lord filled in as caller and did an expert job. Mr Francis B. Masterson, Trustee, mingled with the other guests and seemed to be enjoying himself. Coke and cookies were served while Frankie Myers and his band played for dancing.

The Employees' Benefit Association is greatly indebted to the staff and their friends who supported us by donating gifts and by attending our party.

Helen E. Colgan, Chairman
Entertainment Committee

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LAST SUMMER IN EUROPE

In spite of a heavy rain, some sixty people gathered in the Temporary Conference Room on Friday evening, December 8, to enjoy traveling by words and pictures through parts of the British Isles and continental Europe. Mrs Geraldine S. Herrick, Chairman of the Program Committee, presided.

It was necessary to keep to a rigid time schedule so that the room would be vacated by ten o'clock. Miss Muriel C. Figenbaum gave a brief talk and then accompanied the showing of her slides by explanatory comments. The time alloted to the trip taken by Miss Edna G. Peck, Miss A. Virginia Haviland, and Miss Margaret A. Morgan was divided (like Gaul) into three parts -- a chatty talk; colored slides with commentary; and moving pictures, also with commentary, given by the three travelers respectively.

The evening was so enjoyable that many expressed the hope that there might be more similar informal meetings in the future when others of the Library's many travelers might share their pictures and their experiences with their co-workers.

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HOW "SWEET" CAN WE BE?

Mr Samuel Green of the Business Office reports that as the proprietor of "Ye Greene Candie Shoppe" he has done a land-office business this last week. The staff has purchased, and what is more has paid for, 1,735 pounds of candy at the cost of $1,216.97. This represents a saving of approximately $610.00 for the staff. Surely Mr Green is to be congratulated. The staff recognizes that this is a task of major proportions. We are grateful to Mr Green for his untiring efforts and we are doubly grateful for the substantial saving which these efforts have made possible.

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SHE REMEMBERED WITH GRATITUDE

How far reaching the influence of the Library and the Librarian can be is brought out in the following incident:

On a recent evening a young woman and an elderly gentleman were browsing about the Young People's Room. We were aware that the appearance of the room, and the discovery of many familiar books were the reasons for much enthusiastic conversation between the two, even though carried on in soft tones. Frankly, we were curious. We knew, somehow, that they were not librarians, and the casual sightseer rarely shows such interest.

Finally the lady came to the assistant on duty and said, "Do you know, I have come all the way from Honolulu to see this

room and it looks just as I remembered it. I should have been so disappointed to find it changed in any way!" We remarked that since it meant so much to her it was well that she came in 1950; that if she had delayed much longer, she probably would not find the Young People's Room in the same location. She told us that in 1920 she and her brother were stricken with "polio". Twice a year they were brought to Boston for treatment. "How I looked forward to those trips! While my mother went to the hospital to be with my brother, she left me at the Library. This happened every spring and fall for five or six years and each visit lasted about three weeks. After 1926 we never came again. You see, in our small town in upper New York there was no public library and my introduction to so many good books took place right in this room. The memory of the happy times spent here I have carried with me all these years. I have many times promised myself to come back to see the room, so this year I was coming for the White House Conference and decided to make a special visit to Boston." She told how during her youth, and with her father's help, they started a small library in her town and there she told stories for a few years before she went away to medical school. She spoke of Miss Jordan and of the "lady with the gray hair", whose name she had forgotten, both of whom had been so generous in helping her to find the very best books, and of the influence these books had on her life.

Upon learning that Miss Toy was still here, she promised to come back the next morning at nine o'clock, to see her. She did come, carrying a beautiful lei, which she placed over Miss Toy's shoulders while greeting her as the Hawaiians do. It was a nice token of her appreciation for the Library and for those who had made her childhood so happy.

The name of the visitor was Dr Pauline G. Stitt. Although handicapped (she is lame and uses a cane), she is a pediatrician and at present Chief, Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, Territory of Hawaii. We discovered an article by Dr Stitt in the Personnel Journal for October 1950 and we also found a resumé of her education and the title of her present position. The article is titled: "Employment and management - working together."

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BRANCH LIBRARIANS' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Following the monthly Branch Meeting on December 6, the Christmas Luncheon for the group took place at Salmagundi's. The guest of honor was Miss Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus. In honor of her eightieth birthday, Miss Guerrier was presented with a check for $110 for addition to the EDITH GUERRIER FUND, which had been created and presented to the Boston Public Library at the time of Miss Guerrier's retirement from the Library in 1940.

In honor of her recognition by the Municipal Research Bureau at the Public Service Dinner on November 15 as one who had made outstanding contributions to the public service, Miss Fanny Goldstein was presented with an orchid from the Branch Librarians.

Guests at the luncheon, in addition to Miss Guerrier, included: Branch Librarians, Emeritus, Mrs Edith H. Bailey, Misses Mary E. Ames, M. Florence Cufflin, Mary M. Sullivan, and Rebecca E. Willis; Mesdames Muriel C. Javelin, Grace B. Loughlin, and Elizabeth L. Wright, and Misses Beatrice M. Flanagan, Ethel M. Hazlewood, Mary M. McDonough, Edna G. Peck, Pearl B. Smart, and Sarah M. Usher.

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THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

If you want to escape from the thoughts of "only 10 more days until Christmas", then transport yourself back over the years to the time when you thrilled to the night before Christmas and the fascinating possibilities of Santa's visit by seeing the exhibit now in the Chavanne Gallery. There you will find some 30 different illustrated versions of the one poem, The Night Before Christmas by Clement Clark Moore. Editions illustrated by Arthur Rackham and Jessie Willcox Smith are there, as well as some linenette editions which are very durable.

The books are a collection owned by Miss Priscilla S. MacFadden, Chief of the Fine Arts Department.

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THE QUESTION MARK VIEWS THE MID-CENTURY MARK; OR THE GOOD OLD DAYS

One morning a few weeks ago in the Book Purchasing Department, The Question Mark was pondering the mid-century mark. With so much being said and written about the progress made in the last fifty years in the automobile industry and in the manufacture of plumbing fixtures, why was there no word of how the Library was getting on at the turn of the century? We had not lived very long in Copley Square at that time. What was the Library offering its reading public then? What was being written and published and what prices were paid for the books that were bought? How many people were being served by the Library?

Suddenly, the door of a little cupboard in the wall flew open and there before the astonished eyes of The Question Mark lay all the answers, or nearly all of them, in a few faded sheets of thin white paper, carefully typed and stapled and bearing the dates week by week from January 7 to April 28, 1898, the so-called Trustees' lists. In these lists was recorded for many years the purchase of every book and periodical bought for Central, Branches, and Deposit, now called Branch Issue. The entry for each item showed its author, title, and cost, and the balance remaining was figured after the deduction of all the items from the available total. A copy of each such list in its completed form was laid before each trustee at the weekly meetings of the Board on Friday afternoons from October to May. Since The Question Mark had no thought of attempting to define the limits of the past biennium, the year 1898 was accepted as typical of what the Library was doing fifty-odd years ago.

In that year, the Library family included, in addition to Central and Deposit, ten Branches, and eighteen other locations, five of which were described in the language of that day as "Reading Rooms" and thirteen others as "Delivery Stations." Only Branches were dignified by names, such as East Boston or Jamaica Plain. The Stations were designated by the letters of the alphabet, at that time ranging from A to U. The Library was serving a city population of 560,892.

Eighteen ninety-eight, it seemed, was a good year for publishers as well as authors. Harper's had three head-liners that spring, among them Roden's Corner by Henry Seton Merriman published at $1.75, of which the Library took 18 copies at $1.14 each, 8 for Central, 8 for Branches, 2 for Deposit; E. F. Benson's The Vintage, bought by the Library in 11 copies at the discount price of $.98 each, 1 for Central, 8 for Branches, 2 for Deposit; and Israel Zangwill's Dreamers of the Ghetto, similarly priced, of which 13 copies were bought, 3 for Central, 9 for Branches, 1 for Deposit. The house of Appleton was having a field-day with David Harum while Longmans, Green was doing nicely with two items by Stanley J. Weyman, The Castle Inn and Shrewsbury. Fifteen copies of each of these last were acquired by the Library at the special rate of $.98 each.

There was evident restraint in our attitude toward d'Annunzio's Maidens of the Rocks which had come out in Italian in 1896 and was now appearing in the English translation. Only one copy of this was bought for what was known as Bates Hall Fiction, a term that implied that the book could only be read in the Library. It was not for home use. Maurus Jokai's Lion of Janina shared a similar fate of one copy only, also limited to use in Bates Hall. Caution was indicated here.

But no difficulty was felt about Carita, a Cuban romance, by Louis Pendleton, which was ordered in 12 copies, or Rosa N. Carey's Other Peoples' Lives, published by Lippincott which drew an order for 15 copies in the first week in January, and was followed in the spring by 14 copies of A Desert Drama by A. Conan Doyle.

It was noted with some surprise that J. S. Fletcher's The Making of Matthias, brought out by Lane, merited an order for only two copies, though The Builders, by the same author was good for twelve. We did better with George Gissing's The Whirlpool which had come out in England in 1897 and took 13 copies at the start.

Of course, Anthony Hope, with his new edition of the Prisoner of Zenda, published four years earlier, made the grade easily as he did with his 1898 contribution Simon Dale, of which 18 copies were bought outright.

Houghton Mifflin meanwhile was romping away with Mary Johnston's Prisoners of Hope and Gilbert Parker's Battle of the Strong and Doubleday and McClure Company were putting out their 55th thousand of

Kipling's The Day's Work.

Mrs Humphry Ward with Helbeck of Bannisdale in two volumes was out in front with 14 copies. But Henry James did not fare so well. Of his two titles which came out in that year, In the Cage was readily accepted with a dozen copies but The Two Magics was flatly rejected and when up for reconsideration six years later was again rejected.

On the more serious side, the lists were well bolstered with the contributions of John Fiske, Lyman Abbott, and William James. General Nelson A. Miles was writing Military Europe; the Webbs, Sidney, and Beatrice, were offering Industrial democracy. On the technical side was Maria Parloa's Home Economics which the Century Company advertised as helpful towards saving money and economizing time, a necessity for every household, and in Van Nostrand's list, one Louis Lockert was down as the author of Petroleum Motor Cars.

We find that the Boston Directory of 1898, published by Sampson, Murdock was selling at $5.00 a copy. The Library bought 13 of these, and one copy of the Boston Blue Book for the same year, price $3.00, which was needed for Bates Hall. Sell's Dictionary of the World's Press we acquired for $1.87 and Jane's All the world's fighting ships for $2.62. Whitaker's Directory of titled persons cost only $1.00. In the Periodical Room, an additional subscription to McClure's Magazine was needed at a cost of $1.00 and $2.00 each was spent on subscriptions to the Journal of Inebriety published in Hartford, Connecticut, and to the Horseless Age.

From across the water, we were acquiring The diplomatic history of America, by Henry Harrisse, published a year earlier by Henry Stevens, at 6/9 or $1.62 to the Library.

Hawthorne's Blithedale romance in its first edition of 1852 was ours for $1.50.

Topics of timely interest were reflected in such titles as Republican responsibility for present currency perils, by Perry Belmont, brought out by Putnam at a cost to the Library of $.33, together with The Dreyfus Case, by G. Guyon, offered for $.25. A list of the first week in January carried many titles on Social Reform. We were spending 16/ or $4.00 for Communism in Central Europe in the time of the Reformation, by Karl Kautsky, and a need felt even then was evidenced by a copy bought for Deposit of Anna Payson Call's Power through Repose. John Davidson was writing on The bargain theory of wages, published by Putnam, $.98 to the Library, and there was a forward look to us of today in the title The veto power, by E. C. Mason.

At an auction sale at Libbie's to be held on February 8 and 9, 1898, $150.00 was allowed to be spent from trust funds income for a number of titles which Mr Allen A. Brown had selected as desirable for the Library's Music department.

But it is in the pages of replacements for Central, Branches, and Deposit that we feel that we are really "home."

There was Longfellow's Outre-Mer; Three gringos in Venezuela and Central America, by Richard Harding Davis; Miss Parloa's kitchen companion; Coffin's Old times in the colonies, and the Boys of '61; 4 copies of The Christian, by Hall Caine; Walter Camp's American Football; a flock of Alcott books, Little Women, and A garland for girls, and Under the lilacs; Thomas Hardy's A pair of blue eyes, first published in 1872; Macaulay's Lays of Ancient Rome; Strangers and pilgrims by M. E. Braddon; and A traveller from Altruria, by William Dean Howells.

More copies were needed also as Branch replacements of A houseboat on the Styx, by John Kendrick Bangs, $.82, Cooper's The deerslayer, $.82 and S. R. Crockett's The raiders, $.98; of Editha's burglar, by Mrs Burnett; of J. T. Trowbridge, Lucy C. Lillie, Charlotte M. Yonge and Andrew Lang; of Spyri and a long line of Henty books, The Lion of the North, The dash for Khartoum, Condemned as a Nihilist, and Through Russian Snows, all of these last at $.98 each.

Yet, in this Eden of low costs, Mr Herbert Putnam, the librarian, in his annual report for the year 1898, was writing prophetically: "With each year of its development the Library requires a larger sum for its maintenance." We were being conditioned even then for the day of some thirty Branch Libraries, a city population of 788,554, open shelves, films, phonograph records, and a Bookmobile.

Christine Hayes

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MIDCENTURY WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

It was a great privilege for me to attend the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth which convened in Washington December 3 through 7. These conferences are held every ten years at the call of the President of the United States. This midcentury conference was the fifth and largest, with upwards of six thousand delegates from all parts of the country participating.

It is a stimulating experience to be a part of any gathering of such size, but when the entire body concentrates its best thinking on one theme, then the experience becomes memorable. The theme for this conference can best be stated in the following words of the National Committee:

> "The purpose of the Conference shall be to consider how we can develop in children the mental, emotional and spiritual qualities essential to individual happiness and to responsible citizenship, and what physical, economic, and social conditions are deemed necessary to this development."

Reduced to a simple phrase which was heard often during the conference, this theme can also be stated as a concern "to provide each child with a fair chance to achieve a healthy personality."

This was the first White House Conference which included the entire child, as the focus for earlier conferences had been on improving various aspects of health, welfare, and social conditions. This also was the first conference which included the direct participation of young people. There were about one hundred and fifty high school and college students who attended and participated actively in all proceedings.

Although there were so many delegates, the conference plan permitted each person present to have an opportunity for active as well as passive participation. There were the great general sessions, addressed by outstanding speakers whose messages brought information and stimulation to all; there were thirty-one small panels meeting simultaneously on two days where specialists and lay members of the conference considered various aspects of the theme; and finally, there were thirty-five work groups who were responsible for the findings and recommendations. Grouped into five sections, each of which was further sub-divided into small working bodies, these work groups were concerned with an intensive study of the five following subjects:

1. Furthering healthy personality development in children and youth.
2. Furthering healthy personality development through the family, the church, the school, and other social institutions.
3. Making more positive the influence of religious, social, and economic forces on personality development.
4. Furthering the healthy personality development of children in special situations.
5. Mobilizing citizens for the improvement of conditions affecting the personality development of children and youth.

Although it was reported that there were hundreds of recommendations coming from these work groups, the committee on recommendations presented ninety to the body as a whole for adoption. A printed report of the findings and recommendations in final form will be made to the general public in January.

A part of the great National Guard Armory where the conference was held, was turned over to exhibits. One of the most interesting of these was the A.L.A. exhibit. An arresting display was further augmented by an exhibit of books from the Washington Public Library, a scrapbook compiled in California showing library activities and including many book lists, and "give-away" material in the form of reading lists and an informational folder. There were somewhat under thirty librarians attending the conference, and this booth provided a common meeting ground for many.

Libraries were included in the proceedings, as well. A recommendation from the work group on leisure time which was adopted and sent to the recommendations committee read as follows:

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Washington Office: Hotel Congressional
300 New Jersey, Washington 3, D. C.
Atlantic.9920, Extension 404

December 3, 1950

Dr. George D. Stoddard, Chairman
Recommendations Committee
White House Conference on Children and Youth
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Stoddard:

The Librarians assembled at the White House Conference on Children and Youth submit the following statement to your Committee, and sincerely hope that it will be included in the final recommendations submitted to the Conference.

To achieve maturity of personality as responsible citizens in a democratic society, all children and young people and the adults working with them, must have continuing access to new ideas and information, and to the experience of the past. The Library, widely recognized for its contribution to wholesome recreation, is the resource center where the best materials on many subjects are collected and where services are provided to groups and individuals of all ages, races, and creeds in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy.

Since one quarter of our people are without any libraries, we recommend that community library services be provided for all our citizens and that the library as an educational agency and information center be greatly strengthened and extended.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Loleta D. Fyan, President-Elect
American Library Association

Members of the BPL staff will be particularly interested to know that Miss Eva J. Anttonen, former Children's Librarian from the East Boston Branch Library and at present in Mexico City at the Benjamin Franklin Library, was a conference delegate. She wished to have greetings extended to all her former associates.

Mrs Beryl Robinson
Children's Librarian
East Boston Branch Library

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CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANNED

The part-time assistants of the Central Library are currently making preparations for the sixth annual Christmas party, to be held in the Women's Lounge, on Friday evening, December 22, from 7 P. M. to 10 P. M. The committee has planned an evening of entertainment from some of the more talented members of the staff. It is a source of constant speculation as to whether this affair will turn from a Christmas party into a Broadway production.

P. W. M.

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HELPFUL HINTS FOR CHRISTMAS

When doing your Christmas shopping, remember the Post Card Counter.

*

Did you know that New England News carries a line of Christmas cards and toys as well as books -- and allows us the customary discount on them?

*

Mail packages early -- after they have been securely wrapped and distinctly addressed.

*

Christmas cards mailed in unsealed envelopes require 2¢ postage, even though addressed to Boston Postal Zones.

*

Eat in the Concession and save money enough for Christmas "extras".

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PART-TIME ASSISTANTS' NEWS

4 December 1950

Dear Miss Usher:

Because of the increased interest of the part-time assistants in library news and

library policies and because of the active participation of the extra assistants in BPLPSA social affairs, I would like to request that in each issue of The Question Mark, one or two pages be devoted to part-time assistants' news, embracing social affairs, outings, personnel changes, etc. The part-time assistants themselves have no organ for the dissemination of news and information, and the use of The Question Mark, which is already widely read by the part-time staff, would fill this hiatus. Thanking you in advance for any consideration which might be given on this subject, I remain -

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Paul W. McGillicuddy
Paul W. McGillicuddy,
part-time assistant,
Patent Room.

Editor's Note: The present policy has been to accept and incorporate into The Question Mark any news of activities of part-time assistants which has been submitted. The only exception has been service changes, because the turnover in this particular group of Library workers is too large and too frequent for a staff publication to undertake to keep up-to-date.

The Publications Committee suggests that this group appoint a representative so that the news of happenings among part-time workers will be centralized and then forwarded to the Editor by the tenth of each month. The information will be considered as all other contributions are and will be absorbed into the publication under the proper headings.

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CHRISTMAS IN COPLEY SQUARE

Christmas in Copley Square began officially at 4.30 p.m. on December 11, 1950. At this hour, His Honor, the Mayor, officials from City departments including the Library, and officers of the Back Bay Association were present to inaugurate the holy and festive period just ahead.

With a lighted Christmas tree in the triangular plot opposite the Library, candles brightening all the street lights in the Square, and decorations on the surrounding buildings, the Library was not to be outdone. Ropes of laurel have been twirled over the framework of the beautiful iron gates at the entrance, pine wreaths grace each of the three front doorways, red and green lights add color to the lanterns overhead, and in each of twenty windows along the front is a lighted candle.

These decorations are a tribute to the ingenuity of the members of the Library's own Buildings Department. The candles were designed by the Superintendent of Buildings, Mr William F. Quinn, wired by our electricians, painted red by our painters (with a realistic touch of white paint added for candle dripping by Mr Reilly). These were in answer to an appeal for something homemade to stretch our thin end-of-the-year budget.

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CHRISTMAS DISPLAY AT SOUTH END

Christmas Eve at a Trapper's Cabin in the North Woods is the theme of the Christmas project at the South End Branch Library this year. To create a woods effect there are bare trees and bushes against which is a real moss-chinked log cabin complete with fireplace and chimney down which Santa with his well-filled pack is about to descend, while his sleigh and eight reindeer rest on the roof.

Apparently the sound of sleigh bells has aroused the trapper's little daughter because there she is looking out one of the windows. She can't see Santa, but she does spy a huge snowman -- perhaps it is Frosty? And she can also see the small lighted Christmas tree, to make no mention of the readers seated beyond the front dooryard. Better scurry back to bed, little girl, or Santa will catch you wide awake!

All this is the work of our very good friend and neighbor, Joseph Kharibian, who has for the past several years arranged other displays for us, to the vast enjoyment of children and grown-ups. We should be very pleased to have you come, one and all, to see our exhibit, and, of course, admire it.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Dear Miss Usher:

Recently there was compiled by Mrs Sarah W. Flannery and the staff of the History Department a list of books to supplement the excellent front lobby exhibition on Danger Spots in the World Today. If there is any one on the staff who has any doubts as to the quality of the selection of the books, they need only to consult the required reading list of one of the Government courses at Harvard University and out of the nine books required for reading, five of them are on the Boston Public Library reading list. For any other such student as myself, these reading lists present both an easily accessible way to acquire the books and also other books to supplement this reading. Mrs Flannery and her staff are to be commended for their excellent discretion in selecting the books.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Paul W. McGillicuddy
Paul W. McGillicuddy
Patent Room

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WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT

The suggestion was made to the Publications Committee that readers of The Question Mark would be interested to know what happened when the lights went out and stayed out for over an hour all over the city on Sunday, November 19; and further, that the story should be told from two points of view -- the female and the male. Miss Esther J. Leonard, Teachers' Department, and Mr Frank P. Bruno, Science and Technology Department, Patent Room, have furnished the stories.

Sunday, November 19, was an unusually busy day. Teachers, students, and visitors came in about their business and left so that by 6:30 there were twenty-five patrons in the Teachers Department. One teacher was busily searching for visual-aid material. We supplied her with books and periodicals on radio, television, recordings, and motion pictures. Each time we gave her a new subject she wanted more, and each time we could see less and less. Were we tired? Were we losing our eyesight? The teacher wore glasses and they shone brightly in the gloom. Maybe we needed glasses! It got dimmer and dimmer. Just as we thrust another volume on visual aids at our avid teacher, the closing bell clanged insistingly. The readers raised their eyes from their books and peered at us questioningly. Some asked if it was nine o'clock and others wondered if this was a fire drill. We endeavored to answer all inquiries, at the same time literally pushing our readers out of the room. Very soon the custodian rushed in with a flashlight and ordered us all out, readers and attendants alike. He too, did not know the answer to our questions. Coats dragged on the floor and books dropped from hands that you could not see. As we rushed by the desk in the Young People's Room the attendants were trying to charge books and to give a reply at the same time to a lady customer who asked if this was the way the library closed every Sunday. Alas and alack, we reached the middle stairs. Like ghostly shadows we crawled down the staircase to the first floor. That there were no casualties suffered by the staff or the public is still a wonder. Herded together outside the iron gates we waited shivering; some of us did not have time to get our wraps. Even though darkness reigned and we all stood waiting, some college boys asked if they could come in and study. O! the thirst for knowledge! Time marched on and things really looked black but not at Mr Epstein's (the Goldfish Bowl) where business flourished. The excitement was all over at 7:15 -- then we had light but no customers.

E. J. L.

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At about 6:22 P. M., November 19 the lights went out. It would seem that such a statement would be a complete description of what happened, but such was not the case.

There were about 519 patrons and seventy-five employees scattered throughout the building in the various rooms, offices, and departments. None of us knew exactly what had happened. It was obvious that the power failed, but whether it was just the Library or the square or the city we did not know. The patrons were somewhat bewildered but generally calm and they patiently awaited word from the staff as to what to do.

The wail of the sirens and the sound of the bells were the signal for us to evacuate the building. With the aid of flashlights and under the guidance of the Library people, the patrons began their arduous trip out of the building. Everyone got out and they were asked to wait till they received word to return to the building.

The comment from the public varied from praise of the way they were being treated to disappointment in not being able to do the work they had planned for the evening.

Those of the patrons who became impatient and wished to get their belongings were escorted back into the building where they retrieved their belongings and were escorted out again.

About 7:15 P. M. the lights came on. Back to our jobs we went relieved of the unprecedented tension of the evening.

F. P. B.

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CARE

The Committee on CARE wishes to thank all the members of the BPLPSA for their efforts and great help in sending food packages and books to our friends in other countries, during the past year.

Letters received recently from France, Israel, Norway, and Germany have acknowledged the package with expressions of sincere gratitude and the hope that the Association will have a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Special Committee on CARE

Doris N. French
Florence K. Goodman
Bertha Keswick
Helen L. Lambert, Chairman

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IN A LIGHTER VEIN

In the Children's Room of the West End Branch Library, a recent exhibit consisted of a large poster bearing pictures of several small borrowers, with notes about their book favorites. This drew much attention and everyone was anxious to donate personal photographs and names of books for the poster. One little girl said to the Children's Librarian, "Teacher, in a few days, I'll bring in my picture. It's to be taken at school and will be full-length."

"Fine", said the Children's Librarian, "but are you sure about that? Usually school pictures are only of the head and shoulders."

"Oh, yes", was the reply, "I saw the notice on the teacher's desk. It said, 'On Monday, pictures will be taken of the entire student body'."

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QUARTER CENTURY CLUB PLANS NEW YEAR'S NIGHT PARTY

The Quarter Century Club invites all staff members and friends to attend an informal New Year's Night party in the Central Library building on January 1, 1951, from 8 to 12 m. There will be entertainment in the Lecture Hall and music and dancing in the Abbey Room and other parts of the second floor. Tickets, at $1.25 each, are available through Mr Robert F. Dixon.

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PROGRESS OF WORKSHOP PLANS

On Tuesday, December 12, 1950, a joint meeting of the Steering Committee and the Planning Committee for the proposed series of workshops to be held in the spring of 1951, was held in the Temporary Conference Room. Plans for the workshop series and the subject to be studied were the outgrowth of recommendations made by the Special Committee on In-Service Training. These recommendations of the In-Service Training Committee were based on the results obtained from a questionnaire sent to staff members. Shortly after this report was accepted by the Association, a Steering Committee was appointed, made up of -- Mrs Dorothy Lovett, Business Branch; Mr George Earley, General Reference Department; and Miss Evelyn Levy, Jeffries Point Branch Library, Chairman. This Committee made a thorough study of workshop procedures and presented a very full report, with specific suggestions, to the Executive Board. One suggestion of the Steering Committee was that a Planning Committee should be set up to implement the workshop procedure. This Committee is made up of the following:

Division of Reference and Research:

Mrs Margaret D. Butler, Periodical and Newspaper Department.

Miss Eleanor F. Halligan, Statistical Department.

Miss Esther J. Leonard, Teachers' Department.

Mr Eamon E. McDonough, General Reference Department.

Mr Paul V. Moynihan, General Reference Department.

Miss Sona Semerjian, Kirstein Business Branch.

Division of Home Reading and Community Services:

Mrs Eleanora N. Chaplik, Washington Village Branch Library.

Miss Helen E. Colgan, West End Branch Library.

Miss A. Virginia Haviland, Phillips Brooks Branch Library.

Mrs Veronica M. Lehane, Memorial Branch Library.

Mrs Beryl Robinson, East Boston Branch Library.

Mrs Irene H. Tuttle, South Boston Branch Library.

At this joint meeting, at which almost a full membership was in attendance, plans were outlined for the carrying out of a series of workshops - March through May, 1951 - on the Evaluation of Book Materials in terms of use in the Library.

At a workshop, experienced people come together to study problems of common interest. Working groups are organized around common interests and common problems. The success of a working conference depends upon the contributions of both leader and participants. It is essential that both should work together toward the attainment of a common goal. Group thinking progresses only as each member of the unit graciously subjects his ideas to the test of factual evidence. An open-minded objective attitude toward the opinions and experiences of others is essential. Each individual bears a responsibility to the group. Participation to be effective must be pertinent, thoughtful, and relative to the problem of the group. With these responsibilities of the individual in mind, the joint committees drew up the following outline of procedure: Miss Evelyn Levy, Jeffries Point Branch Library, and Chairman of the now-dissolved Steering Committee was appointed Co-ordinator. It was decided to have one workshop with subject coverage of interest to staff members of both the Division of Reference and Research and the Division of Home Reading and Community Services. Early in 1951 a registration of staff members will be undertaken to determine the staff interest in this project. It is urged that all who can shall participate in order to bring the greatest gains to the greatest number at a minimum of expense. The Workshop Series of 1951 is now in your hands. Your willingness to participate in every way suited to your individual talents will determine the success of the undertaking.

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BRANCH NOTES

Brighton

Books fly merrily to every corner of the blue "night-before-Christmas" sky in the Junior Library. Yellow, blue, orange, green, and gold -- the bell tower, the clock steeple, and house tops rise above snowy village trees. Although Santa's bag is bursting at the seams, the gay old man doesn't seem to mind as he stands on a roof top and tosses the books along their way, hoping the children will find them in the nooks and crannies where they fall on Christmas morning. This Christmas scene which greets you as you enter the Junior Room is effectively arranged to give a three-dimensional appearance.

The holiday spirit is present everywhere. Weekly story hours are featuring Christmas legends and the singing of Christmas carols. The children's interest in customs of other lands is especially strong this year, and gay paintings depicting Christmas in foreign lands are framed in shadow boxes along the entire length of the cheery room.

North End

The Staff and Miss Dorothy K. Becker, a former member, held a dinner party in the French Room of the Hotel Vendome on Friday evening, November 17, in honor of Miss Tyyne Saari who had recently been transferred to Jamaica Plain Branch Library. Miss Saari was presented with a dainty sterling silver pin of a design suggestive of her interest in music.

*

If adults are slow to acquire Christmas spirit, and loathe to begin shopping, it's not so with children. Thanksgiving is barely over before the children's librarian is greeted with cries of "Miss, get me a Christmas book"! News of what Anthony and Rose have bought for their parents, how Philip (miraculously!) bought six presents for a total of $2.39, what has been ordered from good St. Nicholas, are confided to the library staff. And the staff responds to the excitement with a flair of color and decorations that add extra enchantment to the child's world of books.

Bright and attractive individual booklists are now being prepared for several school classes. But the whole Christmas vacation is being planned for all the boys and girls of the North End.

On the day after Christmas, on Tuesday afternoon, there will be a special puppet show, at which the Puppeteers will present that ever popular story "Rumpelstiltskin".

On Wednesday afternoon, at 3:30, boys and girls are invited to a movie program of "Music in America", "Mission life", and "Irish children", and on Thursday afternoon, at 3:30 there will be a special holiday story hour. Friday afternoon will be a Christmas surprise to all the boys and girls who have been loyal members of the fall reading club. A party will be held in their honor. Entertainment will be supplied by some of the very talented boys and girls who live in the North End. Already promising to appear are young singers, dancers, pianists, magicians, and even a young man with a roller skating act! There will also be games, and little surprise packages for the children to take home.

"Little Heiskel", will be the final puppet show for 1950. It will be presented on Saturday morning, at ten o'clock.

There will be two other Christmas parties! The Puppeteers are planning an interesting and festive supper-costume party on December 22, 1950. And the NERTS (North End Reading Teensters) are also making plans for a supper-party on Wednesday evening, the twentieth. During the holiday week, they are going to attend a performance of the "Ice Capades".

Parker Hill

On Friday afternoon, November 17, the teachers and nuns of the grammar schools in the district were given, in observance of Children's Book Week, their annual tea. It was a pleasant gathering, and many were surprised when Miss Mary M. Sullivan, Branch Librarian Emeritus, appeared with her usual cheerful spirit and recalled past good times with the many who knew her. The Auditorium was gay in color from the bright china cups to the tinted pom-pom chrysanthemums and rose buds which Miss Sullivan so thoughtfully donated. The teachers of the Bulfinch School also presented the branch library with a beautiful bouquet of asters, which added to the array of color.

*

Miss Marie Murphy was given an engagement dinner at Dinty Moore's on Saturday, December 2, by her fellow workers of the Parker Hill Branch Library. Miss Murphy was surprised when presented with a beautiful aqua tablecloth and napkins.

*

Boston or New York, our Extra Assistants are not fussy where they win a radio quiz. The latest of our contest winners is Elaine Corcoran who, while spending the Thanksgiving holidays in New York, "Broke the Bank" for $50.00

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LIBRARY BOOKS

A popular member of the public at the South Boston Branch Library has found a way to remind himself to return books on time. He has clipped out and attached to his library card a little ditty from the Saturday Evening Post of November 18, 1950;

LIBRARY BOOKS

I'm never quite through on

The day they are due on.

- Richard Armour

****

TWO ON THE AISLE, PLEASE!

Following a double showing of the play "The Red Shoes" put on by children one Wednesday last month and a movie program

on Thursday, a phone call was received at the Mattapan Branch Library inquiring "What's playing tomorrow at your branch?"

*

Also along the line of strange requests for tickets was the one from a little boy. "Have you any tickets for the Roller Derby?" When the assistant questioned him as to why the Mattapan Branch Library would have tickets to a roller derby, the answer was:

"Well, you have all kinds of tickets, so I thought. . . . . ."

****

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Bentley, Edmund C.
Elephant's work, an enigma
New York, Knopf, 1950

Bond, Nelson S.
The remarkable exploits of Lafcadio Biggs: spaceman
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1950

Cameron, Eleanor
The unheard music
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

Cronin, Archibald, J.
The Spanish gardener
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

De Camp, Lyon S.
Genus homo
Reading, Pa., Fantasy Press, 1950

Faulkner, William
Collected stories
New York, Random House, 1950

Frischauer, Paul
So great a queen; the story of Esther, Queen of Persia
New York, Scribner, 1950

Gordon, Arthur
Reprisal
New York, Simon & Schuster, 1950

Goyen, William
The house of breath
New York, Random House, 1950

Guareschi, Giovanni
The little world of Don Camillo
New York, Pellegrini & Cudahy, 1950

Harwood, Alice
Merchant of the ruby
Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1950

Hemingway, Ernest
Across the river and into the trees
New York, Scribner, 1950

Lyons, Herbert
The rest they need
New York, Dial Press, 1950

Pincherle, Alberto
Two adolescents: the stories of Agostino and Luca
New York, Farrar, Straus, 1950

Richter, Hans W.
Beyond defeat
New York, Putnam, 1950

Waltari, Mika T.
The adventurer
New York, Putnam, 1950

Yerby, Frank
Floodtide
New York, Dial Press, 1950

Non-fiction

Campbell, Angus
Public use of the library and other sources of information
Ann Arbor, Univ. of Michigan, 1950

Capote, Truman
Local color
New York, Random House, 1950

Gilbreth, Frank B.
Belles on their toes
New York, Crowell, 1950

Heyerdahl, Thor
Kon-tiki: across the Pacific by raft
Chicago, Rand McNally, 1950

Johnson, Gerald W.
Incredible tale: the odyssey of the average American in the last half century
New York, Harper, 1950

Kase, Toshikazu
Journey to the Missouri
New Haven, Yale Univ. Press, 1950

Paul, Elliot H.
Springtime in Paris
New York, Random House, 1950

Ranganathan, Shiyali R.
Preface to library science
Delhi, Univ. of Delhi, 1948

Skinner, Cornelia Otis
Nuts in May
New York, Dodd, Mead, 1950

Thornton, John L.
A mirror for librarians
London, Grafton, 1948

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JEWISH BOOK MONTH

On December 9, Rabbi Judah Stampfer, author of JERUSALEM HAS MANY FACES spoke at the West End Branch Library on "Jewish Themes in Contemporary American Poetry", as the last in a series of programs in celebration of Jewish Book Month. The opening program had been held on November 15 at the Young Men's Hebrew Association when Mr N. B. Minkoff from New York analyzed the life and works of the Yiddish writer, Isaac Loeb Peretz.

On November 13, Miss Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, West End Branch Library, spoke on "Honoring Jewish Book Month" at a meeting of the Mattapan-Dorchester Sisterhood of Beth Hillel. On November 24, the eminent Jewish historian and lecturer, Dr A. Menes, spoke on "The Jewish Book -- Then and Now" at a meeting sponsored by the Boston Chapter, World Jewish Cultural Congress. On November 26, at a meeting of the Young People's League of Temple Mishkan Tefila, Miss Goldstein spoke on "The Unbroken Chain". On November 29, she addressed the men of the Roxbury-Dorchester-Mattapan Executive Board of the Zionist Group.

On November 30, at the Mattapan Branch Library, Rabbi Hyman Routtenberg of Congregation Agudath Israel, Dorchester, spoke on "A Bird's Eye View of Jewish Literature." Miss Theodora B. Scoff, Branch Librarian, welcomed the audience, and Miss Goldstein spoke on the significance of Jewish Book Month. Two films were shown -- SONG OF THE NEGEV and FLIGHT TO FREEDOM.

On December 1, Miss Goldstein was interviewed over the short wave station WRUL, which beams its broadcasts to foreign countries, on the activities of Jewish Book Month in general and as they relate themselves to Boston in particular.

On December 3, in the Lecture Hall at Central Library, Mr A. M. Klein, well-known Canadian poet and lecturer, read and commented on his own works. Mr Lee M. Friedman, President of the American Jewish Historical Society and a Trustee of the Boston Public Library, spoke on "The Jews in American History".

On December 7, at the invitation of Rabbi Benjamin L. Grossman, Chaplain, Miss Goldstein spoke to the inmates of Charlestown State Prison on "Harvesting New Jewish Books".

Exhibits appropriate to the month were displayed in all branch libraries which serve Jewish constituencies.

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SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap [illegible] are personal opinions expressed by [illegible]dual Association members and their [illegible]arance does not necessarily indicate [illegible] the Publications Committee and the Ass[illegible]ation are in agreement with the views e[illegible]essed.

To the [illegible]p-box Editor:

It wo[illegible] seem to me that a questionable decisio[illegible]as been made in lending as head of a sp[illegible]al subject department one with little [illegible]evant training, experience, and educati[illegible] at the same time passing over the firs[illegible] assistant with qualifications of education, training, and experience in that special subject field.

*

To the Soap Box:

The Head of the History Department has been called back into active service in the WAVES. The first assistant is a married veteran who has passed all the required promotional examinations and was given the titular position because of his qualifications. It was to be assumed that in the absence of the Head of the Department the first assistant would act as assistant-in-charge.

As we understand it, after twelve weeks an assistant-in-charge of a department receives the minimum salary of a head of a department. Now, a veteran who lost so much salary during a War for democracy finds that he is not to be given the opportunity to receive an advancement in

salary. Why?--because an individual who has had to my knowledge no experience in this subject field is to be lent to the top position in the History Department.

If the Head of the History Department resigned, and had the vacancy been left unfilled for months, or even years (as has happened) the first assistant would have presumably carried on. Why should not the same procedure be followed in the case of an extended leave of absence for military duty?

From the viewpoint of service to the public a first assistant who has worked in the department for several years and who has passed examinations to prove that he is capable to do the work would be better able to render good service to the taxpaying public than would an individual who never worked in the department at all.

Why?

*

To the Soap Box:

Another seeming injustice has reared its ugly head in the Library. The Chief of the History Department has been recalled to active duty with the Navy. In her place, "temporarily" (it says here) has been put a person who has no academic degree; whose knowledge of the subject field, as far as I have been able to ascertain, is limited; and whose experience in open departments has been exclusively at the Supervisor's Desk.

Where is the system now? Why is it that the First Assistant in this department was completely ignored?

*

To the Soap Box:

The devious working of the Administrative Mind is wondrous to behold even though it proves to me that there is a Fairy Godfather or Santa Claus existing for some individuals. A Godfather or Santa Claus who, most unexpectedly and against precedent as I know it, places in charge of a department temporarily an individual who has had little, if any, experience in an open reference department, and who has even less knowledge of the special subject field, as far as I have been able to find out.

There is a First Assistant in the History Department. There is wide-spread concern that this qualified First Assistant should be passed over, even temporarily.

What price Reference Division morale now?

Editor's Note:
Since the situation discussed in the above letters was changed between the date letters were submitted and the date of publication of The Question Mark, each person submitting a letter was asked if his or her letter should still be printed. In accordance with the decisions of the individual writers, their letters were either published or withdrawn. This has meant that several stencils have had to be recut, and The Question Mark is being issued on December 18.

*

To the Soap Box:

As a person with many years of library service and therefore familiar with the type of work accomplished in the various executive positions she has held, I wish to comment on the excellent judgment shown in naming the Chief of the Open Shelf Department. I have never known such enthusiastic approval of an appointment shown by members of the staff as evidenced by comment. One of the letters submitted to the last "Question Mark" seemed to stress the college degree aspect of the person's background. In this respect, I think it would be quite pertinent to remark that any qualification that would disqualify the best possible person from a standpoint of experience and known ability should be considered of secondary importance. No system of evaluation is any better or more workable than its known results. The present system emphasizing educational background is based on criteria used at the present time more often for entrance qualifications in government and business, rather than for promotions within the service. In the latter case it is usually the best person from the standpoint of work accomplishment and experience who is chosen. Other qualifications enter in to such considerations but in most cases they seem to be secondary. It is possible that certain adjustments in the weighting of qualifications should be studied. In subject fields it is of course necessary that emphasis should be placed on background knowledge. However, if a person has been doing satisfactory work in a subject field for many

years such background knowledge is provable. We all know that knowledge does not necessarily have to be acquired through formal education. In fact, we also know that in many instances formalized mass education defeats its basic purpose and becomes a handicap to enterprise, initiative and an enquiring mind.

*

Athanasius Smeed, may his tribe increase!

COPIED FROM A
COLONIAL THEATER PROGRAM

The Boston Public Library
and its 30 Branch Libraries
invite you to read
DEATH OF A SALESMAN by Arthur Miller
and other Pulitzer Prize-winning dramas

****

LATE FLASHES

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Edith M. Sliney, Office of Records, Files, Statistics, to Mr Jack Trocki of Waltham.

*

Mr and Mrs Frank A. Yanovich, South Boston Branch Library, announce the birth of a son on December 11, 1950. (David)

****

The Members of the Publications Committee wish for all members of the staff of the Boston Public Library a Blessed Holiday Season!

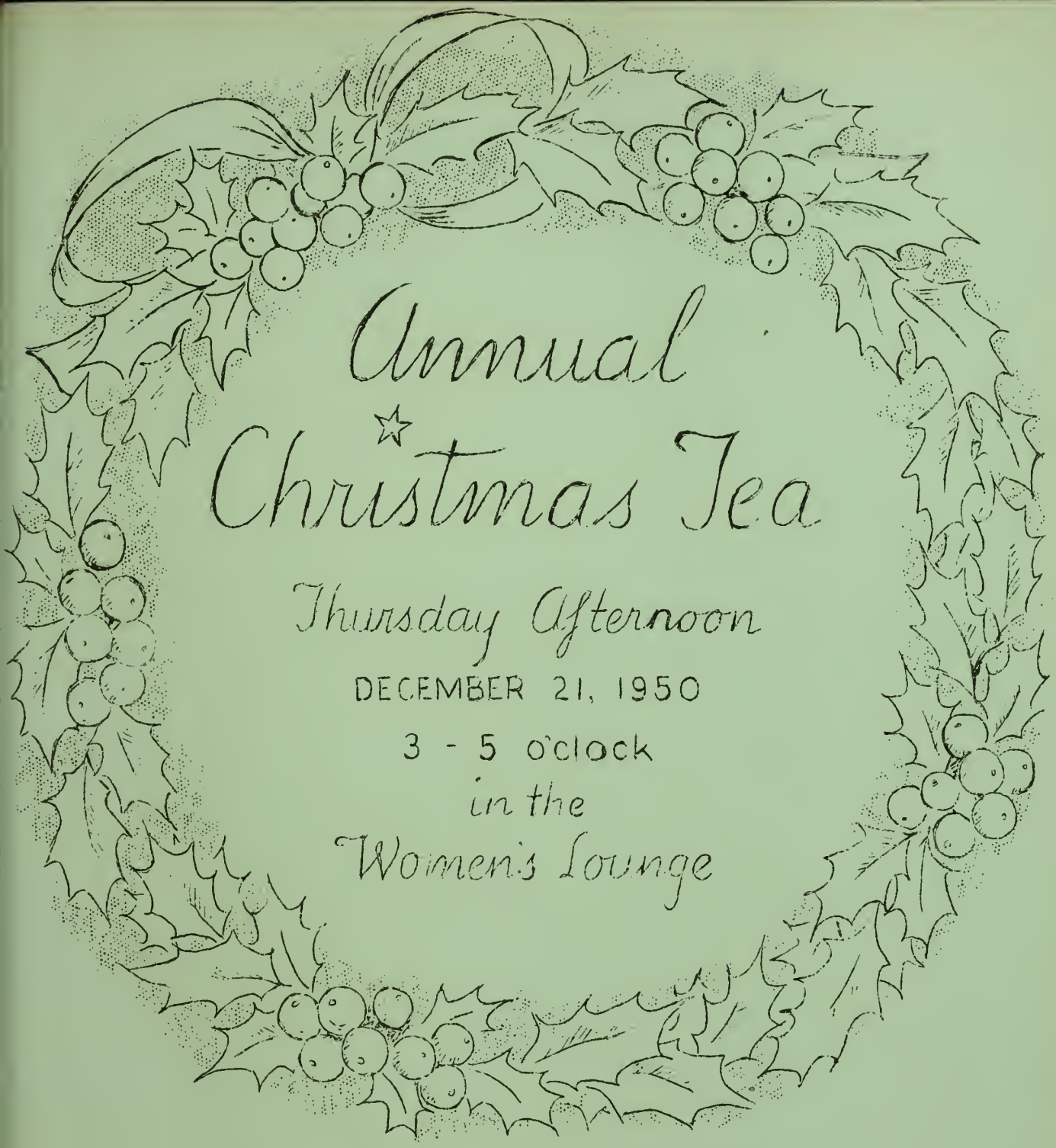
A TRULY PROFESSIONAL NOTE

Inasmuch as space permits, we print the birth announcement for Christopher Marc Pahud, as we received it.

MT410
.P136C8
op.1

Pahud, Margaret (Kingsbury) 1925-
Christopher Marc Pahud, by Peggy and George Pahud. Boston, Richardson House, 7 December 1950.
8 p. port. 40cm. (Nursery Series)

1. Bassoonette. I. Pahud, George Marcel, 1923- , joint author. II. Title.



Committee for Christmas Tea

Mary V. Doyle, Chairman

Margaret D. Butler
Vanda B. Cariani
Helen M. Duston
Flora A. Ennis
Adelaide B. Lockhart
Anna L. Manning
Grace M. Marvin
Mary F. Nagle
Ollie J. Partridge
Patricia A. Tuley
Beatrice G. Wade
Jean E. Watson

14 December 1950
Boston Public Library

I N D E X

Volume V—1950

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BPL	Boston Public Library
BPLEBA	Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association, Inc.
BPLMEU	Boston Public Library Maintenance Employees' Union
BPLPSA	Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association
BPLQCC	Boston Public Library Quarter Century Club
MLA	Massachusetts Library Association
SLA	Special Libraries Association

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